Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 271 | THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2009 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Which tandem will you vote for in the runoff election?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS
PHASE 6

As of November 11, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

DC Sniper
John Allen Muhammad, the mastermind behind the sniper attacks that left 10 dead, is executed.

NATION...Page 14

New CD
Rihanna says recording songs on her new album was an emotional experience.

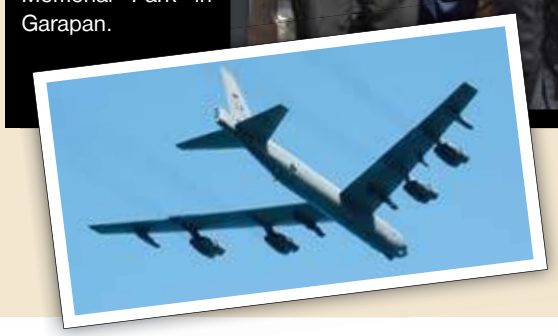
LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

Fitial: We will win this election. **PAGE 3**
US: NMI's challenge to interim rule too speculative. **PAGE 5**

'So much owed by so many to so few'

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
The American and U.S. Army flags flutter in the wind as a crowd gathers at the base of the American Memorial Park's Court of Honor for the Veterans Day ceremony yesterday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Col. Daniel J. Settergren, commander of the 36th Contingency Response Group at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, lead dignitaries, military service members and veterans in laying a wreath as part of yesterday's Veterans Day Ceremony at the American Memorial Park in Garapan.



A lone B-52 out of Guam's Andersen Air Force Base flies over the American Memorial Park in Garapan where the Veterans Day ceremony took place yesterday.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Only about 1 percent of Americans serve in the military but the effect these few individuals have on the nation's freedom and democracy reminds U.S. Air Force Col. Daniel J. Settergren of the words of Winston Churchill: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

See SO MUCH on Page 4

MRDC's $300M casino sets soft opening in 2012

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Resort Development Corp. has set an October 2012 soft opening for its "Pulan Hotel," an estimated $300 million casino resort on 1.36-million square meters of public lands on Tinian.

Kang Yun Lee, chief executive officer and chairman of MRDC, made the announcement on Tuesday for the project that consists of a 405-room hotel/casino, a golf course and a beach resort.

In a statement, Lee said the company has completed environmental and archeological assessments, perimeter and topographical surveys, and architectural and

See MRDC'S on Page 4

OPA probes payroll scam at Tinian Health Clinic

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Office of Public Auditor is now investigating an alleged payroll scam involving two employees at the Tinian Health Clinic.

Public Auditor Michael Pai confirmed this with the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, saying the case involves "payroll issues and time sheets."

Pai said the investigation stems from a recent complaint that is now being pursued by OPA investigators.

He refused to comment further, saying this may jeopardize the ongoing probe.

See OPA on Page 4

Chopper to be hired again to get 4 Agrihan votes for runoff

4 votes cost $33,000 in chopper fees alone

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com`
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission will again hire a helicopter for $11,000 just to get the votes of four Agrihan residents for the coming Nov. 23 runoff election.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, CEC executive director Robert Guerrero said this will bring the total cost of hiring the helicopter for this year's election to

See CHOPPER on Page 4

IT&E
Life in Motion
Thanksgiving Specials
The BEST deals on the COOLEST PHONES
Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483) • www.ite.net
Cool Phones
as low as $65.00*
GSM QUAD-BAND
CAMERA PHONE
SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS
*Terms and conditions apply

Local

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Outstanding employees of Oleai Elementary School pose with their administrator during a visit to the campus Tuesday. From left are Teacher Aide of the Year Balbina Solberg, principal Glenn Muna, Teacher of the Year awardee Roselle Ichihara-Carreon, and Begonia Cruz, the school's Support Staff of the Year.

FOR EDUCATION MONTH CELEBRATION:

Carreon, Solberg, Cruz are Oleai's top awardees

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Oleai Elementary School has named Roselle Ichihara-Carreon, Balbina Solberg, and Begonia Cruz as its outstanding employees of the year and the school's representatives in the Public School System's search for overall honorees.

Roselle Ichihara-Carreon, who topped the school's nominees for the Teacher of the Year award, will compete with 19 other nominees for the overall title this month.

Carreon, 28, has been teaching at Oleai for seven years now. This is her third time to be nominated for the honor in her school.

"For me, just being chosen TOY within my school is already an honor. We really need to continue to appreciate and value our teachers and it doesn't matter if you contributed more than somebody else. It's how you help them that truly matters," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

Being an educator and a teacher is not an easy profession, Carreon said, because it requires dedication, hard work and, most importantly, it requires a heart.

"If you don't have that drive and passion to serve your community by serving students, then education is not the right job for you," she said.

She believes that there are three types of teachers: those who are born to teach, those who are taught to teach, and those who should not be teaching at all.

"For me I am two of these. I was born to teach because teaching is in my family, but I was also taught to teach by always seeing after the needs of my students," she said.

Carreon's parents are retired public school administrators while her brothers, uncles, and aunts are also in the teaching profession.

For Oleai's Teacher of the Year, education is an ongoing process—even for teachers.

Like other kindergarten mentors, Carreon supports a full-day instruction for kindergarteners, which currently receives less than three hours of instruction daily.

"In meeting the standards and benchmarks for our grade levels, we need more time for our students and less than three hours for kindergarten is not enough for them to be able to learn more [about these benchmarks]," she said.

Teacher Aide of the Year

Named Teacher Aide of the Year for Oleai school is Balbina Solberg, a teacher assistant for students with special needs.

In her over five years of serving special kids at Oleai, Solberg never gets tired of attending to their needs.

"For me, this is the best job. Not many people have jobs that they truly enjoy…and I am lucky to be in this work which I really enjoy. My students motivate me to come to school every day," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

This was Solberg's first time to be nominated for the award.

"I am so happy and truly honored," she said, adding that, as a teacher, she also grows with her students.

"As I teach them, I grow with them too. When they progress, I feel that I also succeed," she said.

Oleai also adjudged Begonia DLG. Cruz as this year's Support Staff of the Year awardee.

She has been with the Oleai school for 17 years as its secretary.

Her colleagues chose her for the same honor thrice already and was chosen by PSS as its overall Support Staff of the Year in 2005.

She's grateful to the school and her colleagues for recognizing her hard work.

Oleai Elementary is under the guidance and administration of principal Glenn Muña.

'Ice' charges vs ex-convict dismissed

The federal court has dismissed the charges against an ex-convict who was accused of being involved in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David A. Wiseman granted the U.S. government's motion to dismiss the case against Vincent Cabrera and ordered his release.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James Benedetto asked the court last week to dismiss the complaint against Cabrera.

Benedetto said the U.S. government may proceed with a probation revocation in lieu of criminal charges.

According to court documents, Cabrera was arrested in 2008 for drug trafficking. He was released from federal prison in January 2009 and relocated to Guam.

During his incarceration, Jawn Joyner took over Cabrera's distribution network of methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

A DEA special agent stated in his affidavit that when Cabrera was arrested in January 2008, Joyner began ordering "ice" from Cabrera's Chinese supplier. Joyner then allegedly started selling "ice" to Cabrera's customers.

The agent said Cabrera participated in the conspiracy to distribute "ice" by providing his cell phone and knowledge of his customers to assist Joyner in setting up his drug trafficking in January 2008.

Federal agents arrested Cabrera in Guam last month after the U.S. government filed a complaint against him for alleged conspiracy to distribute "ice."

Cabrera agreed to be taken to Saipan to face the charges in federal court. He pleaded not guilty. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Thanksgiving Special
GSM POSTPAID

SONY ERICSSON W302
• 2 Megapixel Camera
• Video Recording
• Bluetooth
• MP3/ACC Players
• Micro SD Card Slot
NEW ACTIVATION
$115.00*
Reg Price: $153.00

MOTOROLA Rokr E8
• 2 Megapixel Camera
• Video Recording
• Bluetooth
• MP3/ACC Players
• Micro SD Card Slot
NEW ACTIVATION
$125.00*
Reg Price: $200.00

NOKIA 7310
• 2 Megapixel Camera
• Video Recording
• Bluetooth
• MP3/ACC/MPEG4 Players
• Micro SD Card Slot
NEW ACTIVATION
$145.00*
Reg Price: $209.00

NOKIA 3600
• 3.15 Megapixel Camera
• Video Recording
• Bluetooth
• MP3/ACC/eAAC+ Players
• Micro SD Card Slot
NEW ACTIVATION
$175.00*
Reg Price: $243.00

Includes ONE FREE MONTH ACCESS & $20 LD CARD

New Activations Only with 12-month agreement required. Includes One (1) Month Free Access (Airtime) & One (1) $20.00 Long Distance Phone Card. Valid during November 12th - November 30th or while supplies last. Other conditions to apply.

NTT docomo DOCOMO PACIFIC
483-CARE | www.docomopacific.com | Typhoon-Proven
Gualo Rai, Middle Road • Mita Travel, Garapan

Fitial: We will win this election

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial reiterated yesterday that the Covenant Party will win the runoff election on Nov. 23 because of "proven experience and proven leadership."

Republican standard bearer Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider earlier said he is "confident" his team will be able to sustain its "good momentum" in the runoff against the incumbent.

Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos will face off with Hofschneider and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios because none of the two teams got at least 50 percent plus 1 of the votes cast in the Nov. 7 general elections.

"The CNMI cannot afford to take a risk with untested and unproven leadership. Let's not use change as a ploy. Change for what? We're doing the work. We're solving the problems. You want to change that to what?" said the governor, who founded the Covenant Party.

The Republicans, for their part, have been advocating "change in leadership."

Hofschneider beat Fitial by eight votes in Saturday's elections, 4,900-4,982, marking the closest gubernatorial race in CNMI history.

This will also be the first time that the CNMI will conduct a runoff election.

In an interview at the Veterans Day celebration at the American Memorial Park yesterday, Fitial said his administration will "continue to solve problems."

"We are doing a good job in solving problems. We've covered almost every issue involving CUC [Commonwealth Utilities Corp.], Retirement Fund, CHC [Commonwealth Health Center], federalization," he added.

Hofschneider is also confident his team will be able to sustain its "good momentum" in the runoff on Nov. 23.

"I am confident that people will not repeat the same mistake in potentially going for another four years of difficulties and hardships," he earlier said.

Both the Covenant and Republican teams are counting on the supporters of losing Independent gubernatorial candidates Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero and former senator Ramon "Kumoi" S. Deleon Guerrero to give them the overwhelming advantage in the runoff.

Well-run campaign

In a statement, Covenant Party chair Gregorio "Kachuma" Camacho thanked and lauded Covenant candidates for their "well run campaigns and the hard work they put in to each and every race."

"As chairman, it has been my honor and privilege to be associated with the fine individuals that put their heart and soul into their efforts to serve the people of the CNMI. Their efforts, whether successful or not, should be commended," he said.

Camacho also thanked the volunteers for each of the party's candidates.

"Finally and perhaps most importantly, I would like to thank all of the voters of the NMI that not only supported our candidates but those that voted. …With more than 84 percent of the registered voters participating this election, the NMI demonstrated that democracy is alive and well here in the Commonwealth," he added.

As Covenant Party chairman, he asks voters to "make the right choice."

Six new Covenant Party candidates won seats in the House of Representatives. The party will make up seven out of 20 seats in the incoming 17th Legislature.

They include: Precinct 1, Former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio; Precinct 2, incumbent Rep. Raymond D. Palacios and newcomer Rafael Sablan Demapan; Precinct 3, newcomers Felicidad T. Ogumoro and Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez; Precinct 4, newcomer Sylvestre I. Iguel; and Precinct 5, newcomer Ramon S. Basa

"In addition, we would like to welcome the support of re-elected Congressman Stanley Estanislao Tudela McGinnis Torres," said Camacho.

He also commends "the strong campaigns of Juan Pan Tenorio Guerrero and Ramon Deleon Guerrero – their agendas were well communicated and the tenacity in which they campaigned demonstrated that they care deeply about the people of the NMI."

Convicted sex offender gets 5 mos. for beating up girlfriend

The CNMI Superior Court has sentenced a convicted sex offender in the State of Nevada to five months in prison for beating up his girlfriend during an argument over poker winnings.

Associate Judge David Wiseman sentenced Brian Tudela to three months for assault and battery, and two months for failure to register as a sex offender.

Following a plea agreement, Wiseman gave the 51-year-old Tudela credit for the 82 days he had already served in jail.

After completing his sentence, Tudela will be placed on three years of supervised probation and is required to perform 150 hours of community service. The judge also directed Tudela to register as a sex offender and required him to pay a $500 fine and $25 court assessment fee plus probation fee.

Tudela, who was arrested in August, is expected to be released from the Department of Corrections on Jan. 10, 2010.

According to court records, a police officer responded to a house in Papago on Aug. 12 after receiving a report about a domestic violence incident. The victim, who was crying when the police officer arrived, showed the officer her injuries. Police then arrested Tudela, who was seen in a car near the neighbor's house.

Police learned that Tudela and the victim had been playing poker in Garapan. When the victim gave Tudela just a few dollars from her winnings, he got mad and beat her up.

Police said that in 1989 the Nevada court sentenced Tudela to life in prison for sexual assault with a deadly weapon, burglary, and battery with use of a deadly weapon. In 2004, Tudela was listed under "non-compliant status" by the Nevada Sex Offender Registry.

Tudela has been in the CNMI since late 2005 and has failed to register with the Sex Offender Registry Unit since his arrival, police said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Kilili joins Congressional Military Family Caucus

U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan and more than 70 of his colleagues in the House of Representatives have joined the new bi-partisan Congressional Military Family Caucus. The Caucus will focus on identifying solutions to the challenges military families face before, during and after deployment.

"Clearly, when someone from the Northern Mariana Islands is deployed for military duty, whether they are from close to home like our troops in Echo Company or whether they are part of some other unit of our U.S. Armed Services, the whole family is affected, especially the children," said Sablan.

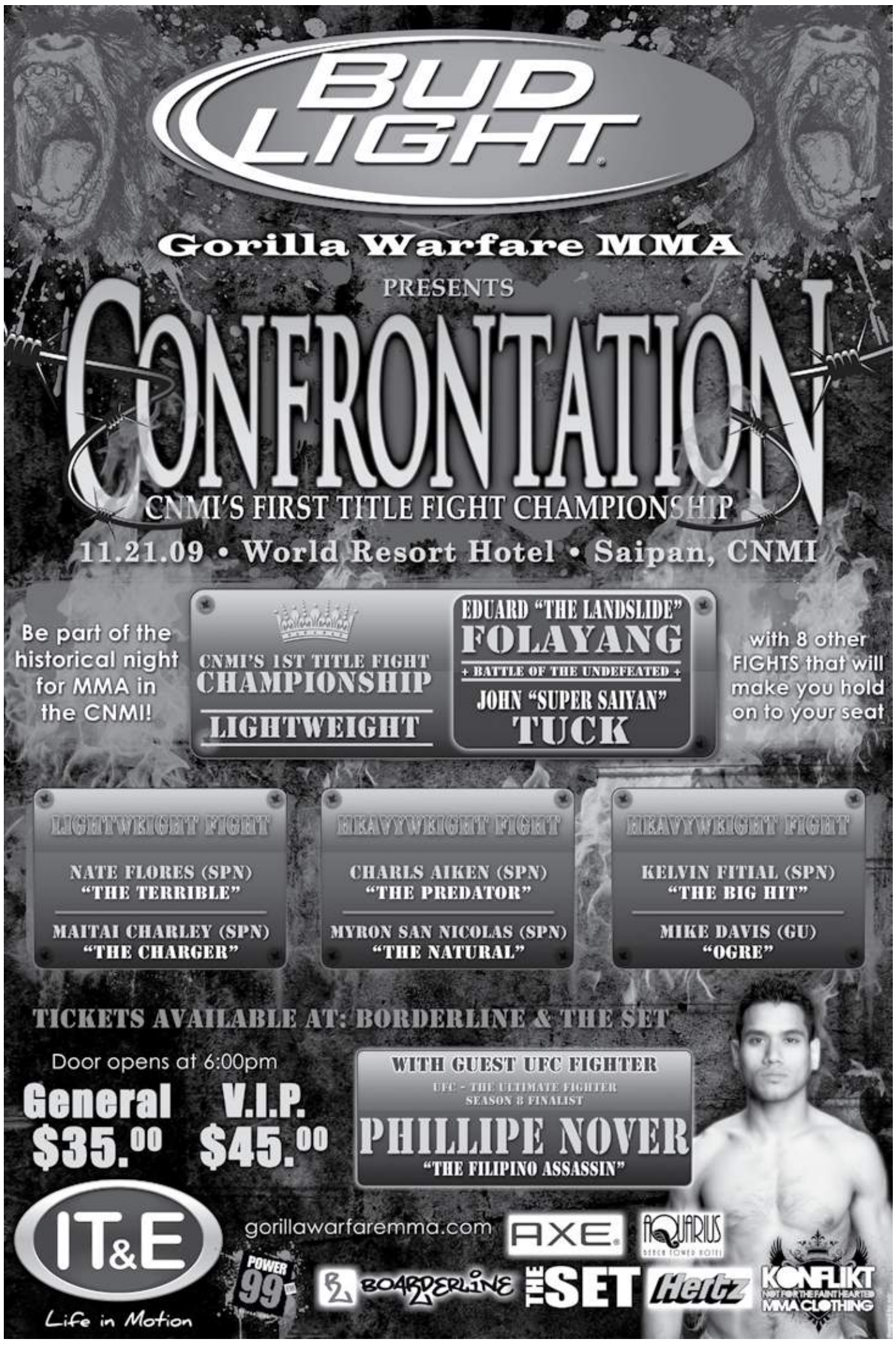
Echo Company recently returned from their second tour of duty in Iraq.

"Just as we provide the needed resources to our troops in the field, we must provide the support to the families waiting for their loved ones to return home safe," said Sablan.

The Caucus kickoff event was attended by Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who pledged his support. "We are extremely grateful for your starting the Caucus," he said. "This is a big deal."

The Caucus is expected to hold its first briefing in December with representatives from the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense as well as outside organizations such as the Military Families Association, Military Families United, and the Military Officers Association.

"I have talked to many of our military families and the Caucus provides me with another way to continue to work on their behalf," Sablan said. ***(PR)***



BAKE SALE

Students at the Northern Marianas College take time in between classes to buy drinks and treats at a bake sale hosted by the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. The bake sale was part of PTK's efforts to raise funds for a scholarship program that will be offered next semester to members. PTK is a national honor society for two-year colleges that encourages and supports academic excellence, leadership, and community service.

NMC

CHOPPER

From Page 1

$33,000 since this will be the third time for the poll staff to visit the island.

"We cannot deprive them of their right to vote. That's why we are doing that," he said.

Similar to Saturday's election, the CEC will fly to Agrihan two poll staff and a police escort to let the four residents cast their votes on Nov. 23, Guerrero said.

He said they first used the chopper sometime in August or the first week of September when they sent their staff to the island to register the four residents there.

In Saturday's election, one poll staff accompanied by a police officer flew to Agrihan to get the ballots of the four voters.

They were supposed to send two poll staff to the island, but the chopper could not carry more than three passengers, according to the election official.

Guerrero said that, after this election, they want to revisit the election laws in order to save the public money and resources.

"Most of these are statutory. We are going to look at the laws and possibly propose any amendment to the Legislature," he said.

He said they will look at all possibilities to make it easier for the voters.

Guerrero said that, at this time, he does not know how they are going to remedy the Northern Islands' voters issue.

"Those are the things that the commissioners are going to research on: What we are going to do to make it easier for the [Agrihan] voters to vote and not be spending too much," he said.

Last month, Super Typhoon Choi-Wan devastated Agrihan and Alamagan. The eight residents of Alamagan were safely evacuated to Saipan, but the four residents on Agrihan opted to stay on the island.

MRDC'S

From Page 1

structural designs.

He, however, said it takes time to put the master plan together as this involves retaining the best professional and technical people from the fields of architecture, structural engineering, marketing, casino and hotel operations to golf course design and construction, from prestigious firms throughout Japan, Asia and the U.S.

"The preparation of a first rate visitor facility like Pulan Hotel for Tinian entailed initial funds in the millions of dollars. The project is like a chain where you can't bifurcate one component over the other," Lee said.

For example, MRDC retained renowned firms KPMG and PWC to organize a promotions plan for the project. The company has done the same for every component of the plan from Day 1.

"In every aspect of the project, we are focused on awarding local firms construction projects in an effort to fulfill our commitment as partners with our people of the NMI as we begin the first phase of the plan," Lee said.

Concerns

In October, Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said she continues to be "extremely concerned about the CNMI's practice of approving major commercial leases of public lands to companies that are unable to show proof of financing for their proposed developments.

She was referring to Flame Sako, Neo Gold Wings Paradise, as well as MRDC.

Flame Sako and Neo Gold Wings, both Korean investors, had asked the Department of Public Lands for extensions on their lease in order to secure—through additional negotiations—the final financial commitment from investors or financing institutions, or both.

Neo Gold Wings Paradise wants to build a $1 billion casino hotel and resort on Tinian, while Flame Sako plans an $80 million hotel on Saipan.

Meticulous planning

But Lee said a first rate project like Pulan Hotel, casino, beach and golf resort commands meticulous planning.

"There really is no room whatsoever to compare us against other planned projects that have yet to get off the ground. We are here with conviction and commitment to be a part and lasting partner of the people of the NMI and have no plans to deviate from it. We're here for the long run ready to assimilate into the local community by working side-by side to forging and fostering economic recovery and prosperity," Lee said.

MRDC is also set to have a demonstration of eco-friendly energy systems in December, in cooperation with the CNMI government.

Lee also said he had a serious illness in the last two years and had to undergo major surgery that might need several years for recuperation but he said such illness "didn't deter my consistent and persistent follow-up on all that must be done to ensure that we hold our soft opening in October 2012."

Other casinos

Tinian currently has only one operating casino—the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

Besides MRDC, two other groups of investors are planning to build new casinos on Tinian: Neo Gold Wings Paradise, and Bridge Investment Group.

On Rota, four investors have so far pledged to put up casinos: Rota Treasure Island Corp., Rota Resort & Country Club, American Pacific, and Renfeng Investment.

Of the four investors, only Rota Treasure Island Corp. has so far submitted an application with the Rota Casino and Gaming Commission for a casino license. It plans to operate a $25 million casino at the existing Rota Hotel in Sunton.

OPA

From Page 1

Saipan Tribune learned that the ongoing probe only started "very recently" and sources say the investigation involves two employees.

Saipan Tribune tried to reach Tinian Clinic resident director Ernie Hofschneider but was told he was not on duty yesterday.

Insiders disclosed that OPA recently sent its people to the clinic to do background checks and gather data from clinic employees.

Among the things being looked at in the OPA investigation is a possible double-dipping of certain employees, falsification of time sheets, and payment of administrative leaves, sources said.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Tinian Health Clinic gets about a million dollars in yearly operational funds from the CNMI general fund.

Tinian Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Joseph Mendiola said the $1 million budget pays for about 33 personnel that includes personnel salaries for doctors, directly hired nurses, administrative assistants, and other staffers.

Mendiola said he is not aware of any investigation at the clinic but expressed support for the OPA probe.

"If it's anything about wrongdoing, then the delegation has no authority to interfere or do anything," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that illegal actions, if proven, have corresponding consequences under the law.

During weekends and holidays, nurses are the only ones stationed at the clinic; physicians are only called for emergency situations.

SO MUCH

From Page 1

Settergren, commander of the 36th Contingency Response Group at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, was the keynote speaker in yesterday's Veterans Day 2009 ceremony at the American Memorial Park in Garapan.

He quoted a portion of Churchill's speech delivered at the height of the Battle of Britain on Aug. 20, 1940, when he was prime minister of the United Kingdom.

A first time Saipan visitor, Settergren saluted brave men and women for their military service.

"Fortunately, among Americans, the Saipanese level of commitment is unusually high," he said.

The CNMI has more than 1,200 veterans, including reservists. After reservists are called to duty, they are considered veterans, according to Ruth Coleman, executive officer of the CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs Office.

There are also over 350 military active duty members from the CNMI, which has an estimated population of 50,000. They are serving in the five branches of the U.S. military: Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.

Dream

Many more young CNMI residents want to join the military. Among them is Kelsey Sablan, 17, a junior student at Saipan Southern High School.

"I want to join the U.S. Air Force and become a pilot. It's always been my dream and I want to accomplish it," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview after the ceremony.

She said her brother, Raymond, of the Marine Corps, has also inspired her to reach for her dreams.

Vietnam War veteran Frank Cepeda, in an interview, said special forces should be used more in the ongoing wars. "The mode of fighting is not conventional in Iraq and Afghanistan. What we're fighting now should be tasked to special forces like Green Berets," said Cepeda, 68, a former Green Beret himself.

Patriots

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, in his remarks, said for more than 200 years, America has always been blessed with patriots who have proudly stepped forward, ready to fight and, if necessary, to die to ensure that liberty is defended.

"To those on guard today, and to the veterans of every war on whose shoulders they stand—the living, the departed, and the missing—you have our deepest gratitude for your service and your sacrifice," he said.

The Northern Marianas played a major role in ending World War II. It was during the Battle of Saipan, from June 15 to July 9, 1944, that the U.S. 2nd Marine Division, 4th Marine Division, and 27th Infantry Division defeated the 43rd Division of the Imperial Japanese Army.

It was also on the island of Tinian where the atomic bombs dropped on the Japanese cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima took off, hastening the end of the war.

'Honoring veterans'

Settergren told the crowd to take time to acknowledge veterans to honor their bravery and sacrifices.

"You have taken a significant step by being here today. There are more ways we can do this," he said.

Among other things, he said, veterans need compassion and support as many of them are wounded physically and psychologically.

"Along these lines, I am heartened by Secretary of Veterans Affairs' [Eric] Shinseki's recent pledge of more than $3 billion to get homeless veterans off our nation's streets. But our local Veterans Affairs offices and village mayors could also use more volunteers. Simply showing you care could tip the balance in a veteran's life," he said.

Settergren said community members can also help maintain veteran cemeteries, and support the families of those currently serving in the military.

"For many of our deployed men and women, just knowing their families are receiving assistance back home can bring reassurance and peace of mind," he said.

Local businesses, he said, should also be thanked for selflessly allowing their valuable employees to serve the nation and give them a job to come back to once they return home.

"Their sacrifice is a cornerstone of the effectiveness of our Guard and Reserve forces," he added.

B-52 flyover

At 11:30am, Settergren paused for a few moments for the crowd to see a B-52 flyover, courtesy of the 36th Wing out of Andersen Air Force Base in Guam.

The Boeing B-52 Stratofortress is a long-range, subsonic, jet-powered, strategic bomber operated by the U.S. Air Force since 1955.

"For all veterans here today, thank you for your service and your sacrifice. I share the pride you feel in kinship with that 1 percent serving the greatest military in the world. Like a fine piece of *ifit* in the hands of a master carver, our shared service has shaped and joined us. The camaraderie we share in the military stays with us all our lives," he said, adding that the time he has spent as a member of the U.S. Air Force is the best of his life.

Hospitality

In an interview after the ceremony, Settergren said Saipan's hospitality "is absolutely overwhelming."

"Everyone I've met has been so kind to me. And I really appreciate that. And I definitely want to come back here again," said Settergren, who has been in the U.S. Air Force since 1985.

He also noted Saipan as a "very clean island."

"I know it's tough when you live on a small island with limited resources. It's tough to keep everything looking as nice as you have been able to do it here so I really appreciate it and I hope to come back here again and spend some time getting to know the community a little bit better and see the island sights before I leave Guam," he added.

In full force

Pacific Winds Concert Band provided music at the ceremony, while Saipan Southern High School's JROTC cadets posted and retired the colors. Fr. Ryan Jimenez of Mount Carmel Cathedral led the invocation. The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3457 was also in full force at the ceremony.

Barbara Alberti, superintendent of the War in the Pacific National Historic Park, delivered the opening remarks.

Park ranger Nancy Kelchner of the American Memorial Park recognized the veterans by going around the ceremony area to ask veterans and service members about the branch of military they served or serving.

This was followed by the wreath-laying led by Settergren and Fitial, along with veterans and service members.

Coleman, who delivered the closing remarks, said "the beauty of Veterans Day is that we take the time to remember and thank those who have defended us, or stood ready to do so, while they are still with us."

"On this Veterans Day, let us join together to honor those who made our freedom possible and let us continue to work every day of the year to provide veterans and the benefits and care they so richly deserve," she added.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), who also attended the ceremony, said the Veterans Outreach Clinic on Saipan will open in December.

US: NMI's challenge to interim rule too speculative

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government described as "too speculative" the CNMI's claim that the Department of Homeland Security's interim permit rule on the transitional worker program will lead to disastrous economic conditions.

The U.S. government, through the Office of Immigration Litigation trial attorney Theodore W. Atkinson, insisted that the issuance of the interim permit rule does not add to or alter the CNMI's arguments about the constitutionality of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (federalization law).

Atkinson said the existence of the interim permit rule does not add to the CNMI's challenge to the CNRA, because it does not deviate from the mandates of the CNRA in any way.

Atkinson's arguments are contained in the U.S. government's response yesterday to the CNMI's supplemental memorandum in support of a motion for a preliminary injunction.

"In other words, the mere issuance of regulations to implement the Act does not impact the CNMI's arguments regarding the constitutionality of the Act itself," the lawyer said.

Atkinson said the CNMI's argument that the interim permit rule proves that the Act ousts local control over two-thirds of the CNMI's private sector workforce is nothing new.

"This is the same argument the CNMI has repeatedly made throughout its briefing on the instant motion, but the issuance of the Interim Permit Rule does not provide support for the CNMI's speculative claims of future injury or add to its challenge of the Act," he said.

The Act itself, Atkinson said, mandates the implementation of a CNMI-only worker permitting system, and specifies that the number of CNMI-only permits shall be reduced during the period of transition to zero at the end of the transition period.

He said the transition period can be extended for five-year periods at the discretion of the U.S. Labor Secretary.

The attorney emphasized that the CNMI's claim is not only speculative but "is also wholly undermined by the fact that the CNMI challenges the transitional nonresident worker permit system, but does not challenge the application of all other federal immigration laws to the CNMI."

Atkinson said that position is confounding because it completely cuts against the CNMI's argument that a preliminary injunction would avoid harsh economic and other results.

He said without the provisions of the CNRA creating a transitional worker permitting system and without the interim permit rule, nonresident workers currently in the CNMI and who travel outside the CNMI would be inadmissible upon return to the Commonwealth under federal immigration laws not challenged by the CNMI, once those laws take effect on Nov. 28.

Atkinson added that businesses in the CNMI would be unable to hire nonresident workers from outside the Commonwealth as of Nov. 28, because without a CW (transitional worker) classification, such nonresident workers would also be inadmissible.

"In short, without the Interim Permit Rule being effective on Nov. 28, 2009, current CNMI nonresident workers may not be able to return to the CNMI if they leave within two years of that date, and businesses in the CNMI may not be able to 'import' any new nonresident workers from outside the CNMI if the number of current nonresident workers in the CNMI drops," Atkinson said.

He pointed out that while the CNMI's claims regarding economic injury arising from the implementation of the transitional worker permit system under the Act is speculative, the impact on the CNMI of the immediate application of federal immigration laws in the absence of the interim permit rule is not.

Atkinson asked the court to conclude that the U.S. Congress properly exercised its authority in enacting the CNRA and applying federal immigration law, including the transitional work permit system, to the CNMI.

He said the court should deny the CNMI's motion for a preliminary injunction and grant the United States' motion to dismiss the lawsuit.

The interim rule was published on Oct. 27, 2009. It is scheduled to become effective on Nov. 28, providing for a CNMI Transitional Worker Program.

The CNMI contends that DHS cannot justify its failure to follow the notice and comment provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act before issuing these regulations in final form.

The CNMI seeks for a preliminary injunction to stop the implementation and enforcement of the interim rule.

The CNMI wants the court to issue a preliminary injunction that would prevent DHS from enforcing or implementing the interim permit rule pending the court's resolution of the Commonwealth's claims on the merits.

TO MINIMIZE CUC LOSSES:

Amnesty eyed for unbilled wastewater connections

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Commonwealth Utilities Corp. consultant has recommended the enforcement of some form of amnesty for CUC customers who are found illegally connected to the wastewater system.

In the findings it submitted to the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission on Nov. 4, Georgetown Consulting Group said there's a need for a review of the wastewater system to determine whether customers are connected to the system where it exists and is required by CUC rules and regulations.

There are approximately 2,000 customers that are currently being billed for wastewater services.

However, Georgetown said, it appears likely that a larger number of customers are actually connected to the wastewater system.

Georgetown said an operations review would bring to light unknown connections to the wastewater system.

"To accelerate the process of finding connected but unbilled accounts, we recommend an amnesty program, enabling these unbilled connections to become regular customers of CUC without penalty if such conversion takes place in a period of 60 days," Georgetown proposed.

After the amnesty, any customer discovered by CUC to be connected to the system but is unbilled would be required to make restitution in accordance with existing CUC service rules and regulations.

Georgetown also finds that the current CUC practice for customers with meters that do not have a visible reading result in significant losses for CUC. These types of customers are categorized as non-metered customers and are billed on the basis of estimated usage. These estimates are 6,000 galloons for residential customers and 18,000 gallons for commercial customers.

"This situation appears to result in a significant loss of revenues for CUC since the estimated figures currently being used for billing these customers are less than the average usage in each of these rate classifications," Georgetown said.

It recommended that the commission study an alternative solution to this issue during its March regulatory session in 2010.

The consultants also pointed out that a review of the current rules and regulations of CUC should be undertaken to update and modernize the rules to make them more efficient, equitable, and transparent.

It said that CUC's efforts to ensure accurate billing for customers should continue unabated and must be accelerated.

Thanksgiving Specials
The BEST deals on the COOLEST PHONES!
Motorola RAZR
$99.00*
CDMA CAMERA PHONE
Motorola KRZR K1
$99.00**
CDMA CAMERA PHONE
Motorola ADVENTURE
$199.00**
CDMA CAMERA PHONE
Samsung SGH-T439
$65.00*
GSM QUAD-BAND CAMERA PHONE
Samsung A436
$85.00*
GSM QUAD-BAND CAMERA PHONE
Offer valid Nov 12th thru Nov 30th
*Some conditions apply • 300 min More Plan or up • 1 year agreement • Single Plans only • New Accounts only
While supplies last • GSM phones not offered in Tinian and Rota
** Must sign up for Unlimited Data Plan
IT&E
Life in Motion
Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483) • www.ite.net

Malae: Saipan power generation 'fairly stable'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A senior Commonwealth Utilities Corp. official described the present power generation on Saipan as "fairly stable" due to the hard work of the "competent management" of the utility firm.

In a presentation to members of the Rotary Club of Saipan on Tuesday, CUC assistant executive director Abe Utu Malae said the total power currently available to CUC from its three power plants is 53.2 megawatts. The peak load for the year was noted on Sept. 8 at 42 MW, which means there is a reserve of 11 MW.

This is why the government was able to let go of the Aggreko generators it was renting for $6 million as it is confident the demand for power can now be met on the island, Malae said.

He said the root of CUC's problems was the irresponsibility of the agency previous management.

Malae, who was hired from American Samoa, admitted that the "situation" of the utility firm when he first came onboard was shocking news to him.

He said the current biggest challenge for CUC is to respond to what people are asking for. "CUC must learn from its mistakes…and the biggest challenge for CUC now is to answer what people are asking for," he told the crowd at the Hyatt Regency.

CUC, he said, must also respond and comply with the mandates of regulating agencies.

Although there is now a fairly stable power situation on Saipan, Malae disclosed that CUC has serious power concerns on Rota.

There are three engines available on Rota but only one is supplying power to the two feeders. CUC's plan is to overhaul the two other units and another one from Tinian.

Malae said that CUC is determined to meet customers' demand for reliable and high quality power at a fair value.

After fixing the power plant problems, CUC will work on "green power" or alternative energy sources, Malae said.

He said CUC has already submitted to the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission a review of the net metering system, which it hopes to enforce soon.

IT&E and Globe unveil first-ever Pinoy GSM SIM in CNMI, Guam

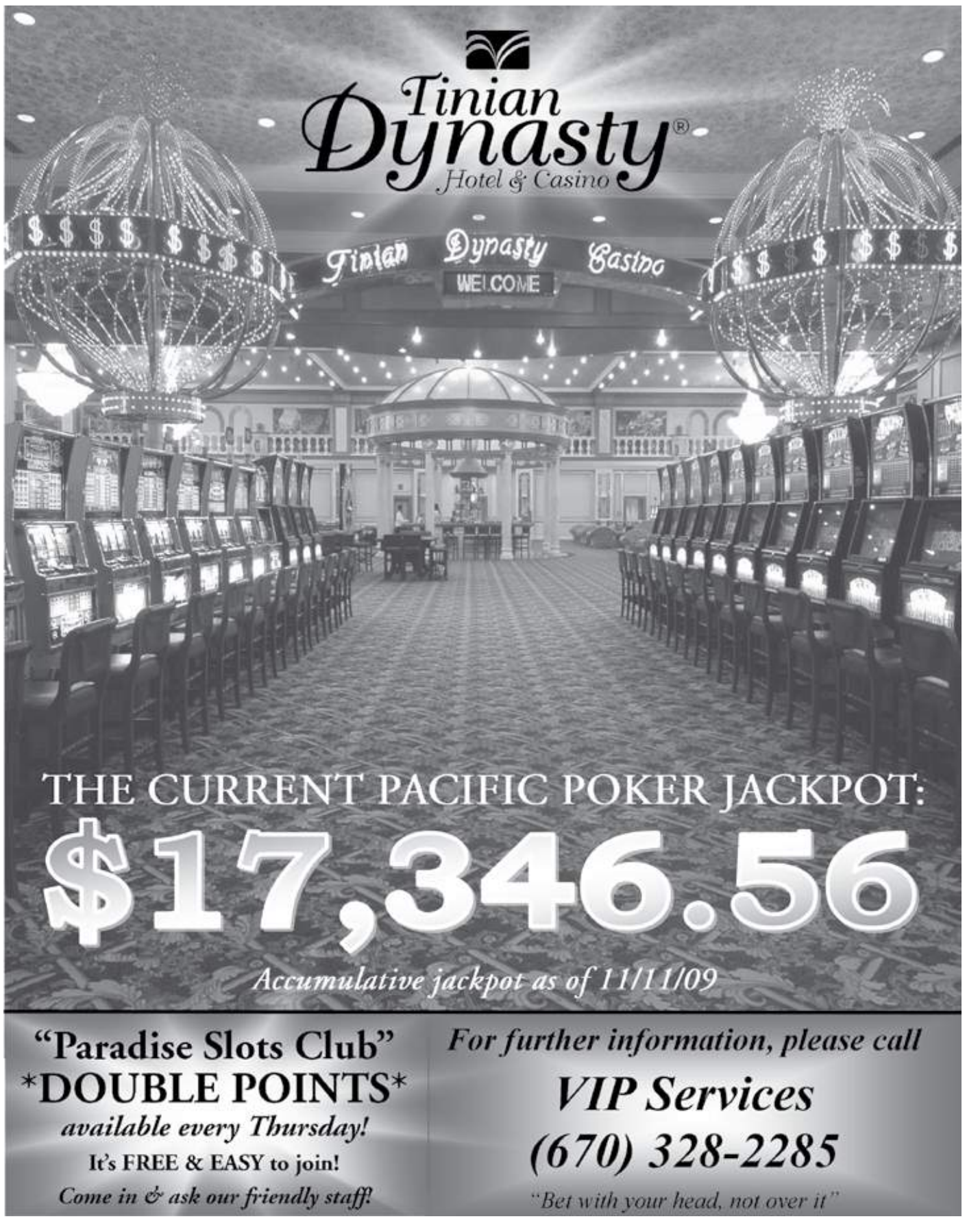
Overseas Filipinos can now easily get in touch with their families with the launch of the Kababayan SIM, the first-ever Pinoy GSM SIM in Guam and on Saipan.

A product of the partnership between Philippine-based Globe and Marianas-based IT&E, the Kababayan SIM allows Guam- and Saipan-based Filipinos to call their loved ones in the Philippines who are on Globe or TM for only US$17.5 cents per minute. And with the ITXT text service, Globe subscribers can now text their families and friends in Guam on their IT&E wireless phones for as low as P0.50 per international text.

To celebrate the launch of the Kababayan SIM, two free shows topbilled by singer-host Billy Crawford were held at the two biggest malls in Guam, the Agana Shopping Center and the Micronesia Mall. The mall shows were also used as venues for Filipinos in Guam to pledge their support for victims of Typhoon Ondoy. This was made possible with the assistance of the Philippine Consulate General office in Guam.

Alan Supnet, Globe's Marketing Head for Overseas Filipino Communities, said the launch of the Kababayan SIM is a milestone as it is the only Pinoy GSM SIM available in Guam and on Saipan.

"We are proud of the Kababayan SIM as the newest addition to the products and services of Globe worldwide. This SIM does not just give the best rates for local calls in Guam and Saipan but it also gives them special rates when calling a Globe or TM number in the Philippines. Globe together with our partner, IT&E, is continuously working to provide more products and services for our *kababayans* [compatriots]." ***(Manila Bulletin)***



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Courts limit work hours

The air conditioning and ventilation system in the Guma' Hustisia (CNMI-Saipan Court House, Superior and Supreme Courts) will be undergoing repair Nov. 12-13, 2009. Out of concern for the comfort, health and safety of the courts patrons, staff, justices and judges the operating hours for the Judiciary on the above dates will be from 8am to 12pm. Family Court matters will keep normal hours.

Similarly affected will be the Clerk of Court's office for the Superior Court, the Law Revision Commission, the Commonwealth Recorders Office, and the Office of Adult Probation. The Judiciary regrets any inconveniences this may cause. ***(PR)***

Chacha Ocean View PTSA meeting today

Chacha Ocean View Jr. High School will have its first PTSA meeting today, Nov. 12, 2009, at 6pm - 7pm in the school cafeteria. Agenda will include the Lancheru Fair (one of the upcoming COJHS events) and other events. The school is urging everyone's attendance at this meeting. For more information, call 237-3721 or 664-4100. ***(PR)***

Saipan to observe 'Feed Saipan Thursday'

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela will sign a mayoral proclamation on Nov. 19, 2009, at 11am to designate Thursday, Nov. 26, 2009, Thanksgiving Day as "Feed Saipan Thursday."

Traditionally for six years, "Feed Saipan Thursday" reminds everyone to fast for one full meal on Thanksgiving Day to remember those who continue to starve because they have less or no food on their eating table. Saipan will also remember those who remain homeless and in dire need of clothing and shelter.

The Office of the Mayor of Saipan is now receiving food, clothing and monetary donations to be turned over to Karidat Social Services. Anyone who would like to donate food, clothing and money, may the call the Saipan Mayor's Office at 234-6280 or 6208 and ask for Ton Benavente. You can bring your donations to the Saipan Mayor's Office during business hours, Monday to Friday. ***(PR)***

Operation NMC SROTC on Thursday

Returning CNMI cadets from the University of Guam's Senior Reserve Officers Training Corps will be hosting "Operation NMC SROTC" at the Northern Marianas College Student Center on Thursday, Nov. 12, 2009, from 1pm-2pm. These returning student leaders will be hosting an information session regarding the CNMI's Army Officer producing program available at NMC for all interested individuals considering the military as a career. The purpose of this event is to explain the significance of the Corps, its integral role in CNMI and its contribution to the success of CNMI cadets. ***(PR)***

Farmers meeting to elect SNISWCD administrators

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources and the Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District will conduct a meeting to elect District Board Administrators on Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2009, at the Garapan Fishing Base in Garapan. In accordance with Public Law 4-44 that established the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the CNMI, the election term is for Fiscal Year 2009-2012.

The event will be conducted by Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Dr. Ignacio T. Dela Cruz and will be from 6pm to 7pm at the Garapan Fishing Base in Garapan. We encourage all farmers and rancher to please attend this important meeting.

Farmers and ranchers who would like to know more about this meeting can contact the local Saipan and Northern Islands SWCD office at 234-6180 and ask for Diana Gabaldo. ***(PR)***

Thanks For Giving Walk set for Saturday

The Thanks For Giving walk will begin at 7am on Sat, Nov. 21, 2009, at the Garapan Fishing Base and is coordinated by Team Courage, cancer survivors in the CNMI.

Garapan Elementary and Bank of Guam tandem will participate in both the walk and MMAC 2010. Families, friends and cancer survivors are encouraged to participate in the Thanks For Giving Walk.

For more information about the annual Marianas March Against Cancer event, please contact Janine Nogis at 483-4207 or send an email to MMAC2010@googlegroups.com. ***(PR)***

Veterans Day 2009

JROTC cadets from Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Battalion hoist the U.S. and CNMI flags at the Veterans Day ceremony.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Col. Daniel J. Settergren, commander of the 36th Contingency Response Group at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, delivers the keynote address in yesterday's Veterans Day Ceremony at the American Memorial Park in Garapan.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Children marvel at the different state and military service flags planted on the grounds of the American Memorial Park for yesterday's Veterans Day ceremony.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A bugler with the Pacific Winds Concert Band plays the taps during yesterday's Veterans Day Ceremony at the American Memorial Park in Garapan.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Col. Daniel J. Settergren, commander of the 36th Contingency Response Group at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, talks to a boy at the end of the Veterans Day Ceremony at the American Memorial Park in Garapan yesterday.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Col. Daniel J. Settergren, commander of the 36th Contingency Response Group at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, lead dignitaries, military service members and veterans in laying a wreath as part of yesterday's Veterans Day Ceremony at the American Memorial Park in Garapan.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

On November 23rd, as voters, you will have a choice to make regarding the future of our Commonwealth.

Do you want to continue with the team that has and will continue to deliver or do you want to risk halting all progress that has been made?

Do you want to support the team that is the MOST QUALIFIED AND MOST PROVEN? Or do you want to support the team that has not been tested and has not delivered?

Providing PROVEN LEADERSHIP in changing and challenging times is not to be taken lightly. The Team of Ben & Eloy takes this responsibility very seriously, and with your support and with your VOTE, they will steer our Commonwealth into calmer and clearer waters over the next four years! This choice could not be clearer!

Make the "Right" Choice on November 23rd!

VOTE BEN & ELOY!

We can't afford the alternative!

Covenant Party
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

www.beneloy.com

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT FITIAL-INOS

Babauta OKs $985K grant for Marshalls

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of the Interior's Insular Affairs' Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta signed a technical assistance grant in the amount of $985,235 to continue primary health care for members of the Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap and Utrik communities in the Marshall Islands.

The Four Atoll Health Care Program addresses the medical needs of those Marshall Island residents injured by the nuclear weapons testing program which the U.S. Department of Defense carried out in the Marshall Islands between 1946-1958.

"The department takes very seriously," Babauta said, "the U.S. government's commitment to assist the local governments of the four atolls to provide medical care for their community members, still bearing health burdens caused by the U.S. military's testing of nuclear weapons."

The grant will fund a full-time primary care physician to work in a dispensary in each of the four atoll communities. In addition, it will fund the education of health care assistants in the fields of assessment and treatment skills and support women's and children's health programs. In recent years this grant has provided standard and updated medical instruments for the four atolls as well as other medical equipment and supplies. Through this grant, members of the four atoll communities receive routine and specialty clinic care, including dental, OB/GYN, immunizations, food safety and water treatment, diabetic assessment and cancer screening.

The Marshall Islands Ministry of Health provides local support to this Interior-funded program. ***(DOI)***

...and lends help to make Marshalls energy firm become self-sustaining

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of the Interior's Insular Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta agreed to partially fund a proposal from the Marshall Islands Government and the Marshalls Energy Company that would implement initiatives to assist MEC to become self-sustaining.

Under the proposal submitted to DOI, the MEC seeks a three-pronged approach that would 1) install debit meters for accountability, 2) establish a meter-calibration program to ensure accuracy, and 3) install meter locks for security.

"I applaud the proposal of the RMI government and the Marshalls Energy Company to ensure the fair delivery of services to Marshallese residents," Babauta said. "Plans such this one submitted by the MEC, work toward the goals of accountability and transparency, which in the end results in a more efficient system from the standpoint of both provider and consumer."

The DOI grant, from the Operations and Maintenance Improvement Program, in the amount of $200,000 will help to address studies that have shown that the MEC incurs a more than 10-percent loss from theft and non-payment of electric utility services. This can result in millions of dollars a year in unrealized revenue. The installation of electrical meters is intended to cut down on such loss and has been successful in other islands such as Kosrae and Palau.

This grant is subject to an equal matching requirement. ***(DOI)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP: RFP10-DCCA-016

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 07, 2009 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"IT CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR THE CNMI NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM"

INTERESTED FIRMS MAY PICK-UP AN RFP PACKET AT THE **N.A.P. OFFICE** LOCATED IN THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE JTV BUILDING IN AS LITO, SAIPAN BEGINNING **NOVEMBER 05, 2009** FROM 7:30 A.M. THROUGH 4:30 P.M., MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, EXCEPT CNMI HOLIDAYS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON **NOVEMBER 23, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M.** AT THE NAP OFFICE, QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP IS DUE NO LATER THAN **NOVEMBER 25, 2009, CLOSE OF BUSINESS.**

/s/ MELVIN L.O. FAISAO
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

ASEAN makes first ever visit to the SPC

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—The Secretariat of the Pacific Community will receive a delegation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations for the first time this week.

"I hope that the visit will provide a major opportunity to strengthen partnerships between the two organizations and will help us engage in more formalized collaboration in the close future," said Dr. Jimmie Rodgers, SPC Director-General.

The main purpose of the ASEAN visit to SPC is to exchange information about regional public health initiatives, especially the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network.

PPHSN is a voluntary network dedicated to the promotion of public health surveillance and appropriate response to the health challenges of 22 Pacific Island countries and territories. It was created in 1996 under the joint auspices of SPC and the World Health Organization.

ASEAN established a similar regional platform recently to facilitate information exchange on public health issues among its member states. The meeting will be the occasion for ASEAN to look into PPHSN experience and identify potential links with the network.

Other issues to be discussed will include the lessons learned from the regional preparedness and response to Influenza A (H1N1) 2009, and potential links with SPC's Public Health Division for the Pacific Island region.

Nine representatives from Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Thailand, Viet Nam and Japan compose the ASEAN delegation to SPC.

The three-day study visit will take place at SPC Headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia, from Nov. 12 to 14, 2009. ***(SPC)***

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

REVIEW OF COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION'S WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES **DOCKET 09-2**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT at 1:00 p.m. on November 16, 2009, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission [Commission] will conduct a public hearing and regulatory workshop at the Senate Chamber in the Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building on Capitol Hill to receive evidence, argument, discussion and public comment on the following regulatory matters concerning the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation [CUC] and on such other regulatory matters as may arise.

1. **FY10 CUC water and wastewater rate increases.**

The Commission will examine whether it would be prudent and necessary to increase CUC's water and wastewater rates effective December 1, 2009. This examination will occur within the context of the following recent events: a] By order dated June 20, 2009, the Commission directed CUC to increase its wastewater rates by 173.4% in two equal phases - effective July 1, 2009 and September 4, 2009. CUC supported this rate increase and cautioned the Commission that failure to implement the increase would materially impair its ability to comply with its duties under the Federal Stipulated Order [Federal Order] dated March 11, 2009, in USA v. CUC and CNMI. Nevertheless, CUC failed to implement the wastewater rate increase. b] The Federal Order directed CUC on or before September 7, 2008 to prepare and submit for Federal approval an interim financial plan, which would, in part, establish its need for rate relief during each of the next three years in order to comply with federal requirements for the restoration of its water and wastewater systems. On or about September 26, 2009, CUC filed a tardy interim financial plan for federal review and approval. Federal authorities have determined that the plan does not satisfy the Federal Order's requirements, which are material to the Commission's determination of CUC's need for additional rate relief in the current fiscal year [FY10]. c] CUC has failed to provide the Commission with material financial information, which is necessary for the Commission's regulatory consultant [Georgetown] to accurately quantify CUC's need for additional water and wastewater rate relief in FY10. d] By initial report dated October 21, 2009, Georgetown advises that based upon available information, additional water rate relief of 51% and additional wastewater rate relief of 184% in FY10 would be necessary to enable CUC to meet the requirements of the Federal Order. Georgetown cautions, however, that these estimates are subject to revision, if and when, CUC provides essential delinquent financial information and further when a federally approved interim financial plan has been crafted and adopted. A follow-up Georgetown report will be filed with the Commission on November 4, 2009. e] By rate order dated September 3, 2009, the Commission found that substantial inefficiencies in CUC's billing and collection system and in its service rules cause unreasonable expenses and lost revenues, which if corrected would reduce the need for increases to CUC's water and wastewater rates. CUC was directed to immediately commence an assessment of these inefficiencies. The Commission awaits a status report from CUC on the status of this assessment.

2. **Water and wastewater lifeline rates.**

Georgetown recommends in its October 22, 2009 summary report that in the event the Commission decides to implement additional FY10 water and wastewater rate increases effective December 1, 2009, interim lifeline rates should also be established effective December 1, 2009 for CUC's low income water and wastewater customers. The details of these lifeline rates will be contained in Georgetown's November 4, 2009 supplemental filing.

3. **Synchronization of Commission's regulatory activities with Federal Order.**

By order dated September 2, 2009, the Commission directed Georgetown to review CUC's interim financial plan, as required by the Federal Order and: 1. recommend a process by which the Commission should examine CUC's need for rate relief during the three year term of the interim plan; 2. identify material deficiencies in the interim plan; and 3. recommend essential components in CUC's financial management plan, as required by the Federal Order, which will be necessary to enable CUC to comply with the Federal Order. Federal authorities have requested the Commission's input on these matters toward the objective of synchronizing Commission and federal regulatory activities related to the Federal Order. At the hearing, the Commission will review Georgetown's report on this matter, which will be filed on November 4, 2009.

COPIES OF THE March 11, 2009 Federal Order, CUC's September 26, 2009 interim financial plan and Georgetown's October 22, 2009 summary letter are incorporated herein by reference and are available for public inspection at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's website [www.saipanchamber.com] under its Public Utilities tab. Georgetown's subsequent November 4, 2009 reports, as discussed herein, will also be posted on the Chamber website for public inspection and will also be available for public inspection at the Chamber's office at the Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan.

THE COMMISSION WELCOMES THE PUBLIC'S ATTENDANCE at the November 16, 2009 public hearing and will welcome public comments at the conclusion of the hearing. Persons who desire to formally participate in the hearing pursuant to 4 CMC § 8409(j) should on or before November 9, 2009 file with the Commission at the Chamber's office an application and offer of proof in accordance with §8409(j) and Commission Procedural Rule 11(c). Subsequent to the public hearing, the Commission will conduct a special business meeting at 5:00 p.m. on November 20, 2009 at the Chamber's office to consider and make decisions regarding matters considered a the public hearing. Further information about the public hearing and the public's right to participate may be obtained from Commissioner Kyle Calabrese at 670-233-7150.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 12, 1999

'Scrap 80MW power project'

Former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio yesterday called for the scrapping of the controversial Saipan power project, saying the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. should not award the contract as the island does not need additional power generation. "CUC should stop it. It should no longer continue," he said in an interview. The project, which began during his administration, has ran into trouble since the government-owned utility firm chose Marubeni-Sithe last year to build the proposed plant in a highly-disputed procurement proceedings. According to the former governor, the initial study recommending the construction of the 80-megawatt plant does not apply anymore because it was mapped out when the local economy was still at its peak.

EPA to conduct independent PCB tests

Due to growing concerns on the impact of polychlorinated biphenyls on the people's health and environment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said it will conduct its own assessment of Tanapag village to determine if the area is free from the contamination of the cancer-causing chemical. "We hope to make it as expansive as possible and get it done as soon as we can although it could still take a year to process the results," said Norman Lovelace, manager for Pacific Insular Area Program, U.S. EPA. The federal agency's response was based on the clamor of members of the community during a recent public hearing who pressed for an independent testing of the village. Residents doubt whether the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have cleared Tanapag of PCBs.

Nov. 12, 2001

Agencies probe biohazard scare

Law enforcement agencies are investigating Thursday's biohazard scare, in a bid to bring to justice those responsible for the threatening acts against members of the community. The US Attorney's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Public Safety and the US Postal Service Inspection Service have launched their joint investigations, underscoring on the serious nature of the criminal offense called "threatening mailing." Frederick A. Black, the US Attorney for the districts of Guam and the CNMI, said Friday that any incidents involving threats through the mail will be vigorously investigated and anyone caught perpetrating such crimes will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Homestead project feared to cause water problems

The proposed Tanapag Heights Homestead may provide new homes to people in the CNMI but it may also create a problem-the contamination of groundwater due to the lack of a sewer system. This was pointed out by the Tanapag Action Group, which is currently lobbying at the Legislature to stop the homestead project in Tanapag until a sewer system is put in place at the site. TAG claimed that their group is not opposed to the proposed homestead at the Tanapag Heights. What they are against is the insufficient infrastructure for the project, such as the lack of sewers at the site.

Nov. 12, 2002

GHLI gets $600K more

The CNMI government has infused an additional $600,000 to the Retirement Fund's Group Health and Life Insurance Program in efforts to prevent another major payment problem with its third party administrator, Hawaii Pacific Medical Referral. Public Health Secretary James U. Hofschneider said in an interview yesterday that the government decided to put in the additional amount on top of the regular monthly remittance to the GHLI amounting to $500,000. "We had a meeting [Thursday] with all the principals involved. At the end of the meeting, the decision was made by the Governor's Office to transfer more funds to GHLI. This is on top of what is transferred every month," he said.

Hawaii hospitals welcome back NMI patients

Beginning last week, Hawaii-based medical providers have resumed accepting referral patients from the Commonwealth, including those covered under the Group Health and Life Insurance Program. Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente gave this assurance, in the wake of the payment made last week by Group Health to its third-party administrator, the Hawaii Medical Referral Program. Public Health Secretary James U. Hofschneider echoed Benavente, saying the DPH has resumed sending medical referral patients to Hawaii following the lifting of the suspension of HPMR services. "As of Friday, my understanding was that the suspension order was lifted," he said.

JOETEN 60th ANNIVERSARY

Joeten's Best Buys of the Week!

November 12 to November 18

DEPARTMENT STORE

Steel Frame Lounge Chair
$19.99 ea.

Foldable Picnic Table
$39.99

Beach Combo Set
$28.99

Camping Combo Set
$51.99

Dome Pack Tent
$27.99

Kids Quad Chair
$9.99 ea.

Sleeping Bag
$13.99 ea.

SUPERMARKET

Bounty Paper Towel Extra Soft 8 rolls
$16.09

Evian Spring Water 11.2oz.
75¢ ea.

JOETEN ACE HARDWARE

15" Flexible Massage Showerhead
sku# 4102935
$57.99

Bissell Powerbrush Vac./Cleaner
sku# 1099969
$59.99

Dirt Devil Broom Vac
sku# 1255496
$69.99

Mardi Grass 3 Rolls Paper Towel
sku# 6112866
$4.49

Level Laser & Stud Finder
sku# 2124253
$69.99

ACE 5-Lamp Spotlight Set
sku# 3195658
$23.99

8 Outlet Surge Suppressor
sku# 3185618
$23.99

SUSUPE SHOPPING CENTER
TEL.: 234-6446
THRU SAT. 8:00A.M. - 9:00P.M. / SUN. 8:00A.M. - 7:00P.M.

DANDAN SUPERMARKET
TEL.: 235-6016
MON. THRU SAT. 8:00A.M. - 9:00P.M.

HAFA-ADAI SHOPPING CENTER
TEL.: 234-7596
MON. THRU SUN. 8:00A.M. - 11:00P.M.

KAGMAN MARKET
TEL.: 256-6441
MON. THRU SAT. 8:00A.M.-10:00P.M.

JOETEN ACE HARDWARE

Come and visit us for more sale!
Hurry, while supplies last!

Store Hours: Monday - Saturday 8am - 6pm/Sunday 8am - 5pm

SUSUPE BRANCH
Joeten Shopping Center Beach Road, Susupe
Tel: 234-3117 or 6448 - Fax: 235-7568

GUALO RAI BRANCH
Gualo Rai Commercial Center
Middle Road Tel: 235-9322 - Fax: 235-9325

SAN VICENTE BRANCH
San Vicente Road
Tel: 234-3176 - Fax: 235-0007

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 271

Published daily at 2/F JP Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Hey, Bert, happy 40th

Today's episode of "Sesame Street" is brought to you by the number 40. The show that taught innumerable preschoolers that it's not so easy being green (a message that would never pass muster these days) turns middle-aged today, as have the Generation X children for whom it was created.

The show's madcap skits busted the myth that children's programming couldn't be educational and entertaining at the same time, let alone occasionally hilarious. And if some of the cleverly sly references—such as Guy Smiley spoofing "This Is Your Life" for a ratty old sneaker—went over the target audience's heads, they also drew parents to watch alongside the kids. That's a feat in itself. Mister Rogers was a great guy, but how many adults wanted to watch him change his shoes each day?

Educators were thrilled that children were entering school with a grasp of letters, colors and elementary numbers. Later, the show was criticized as too winsome, leading children to expect that the elements of reading and math would bounce in bright colors across the classroom. Nowadays, teachers are probably just grateful if kindergartners aren't texting in class.

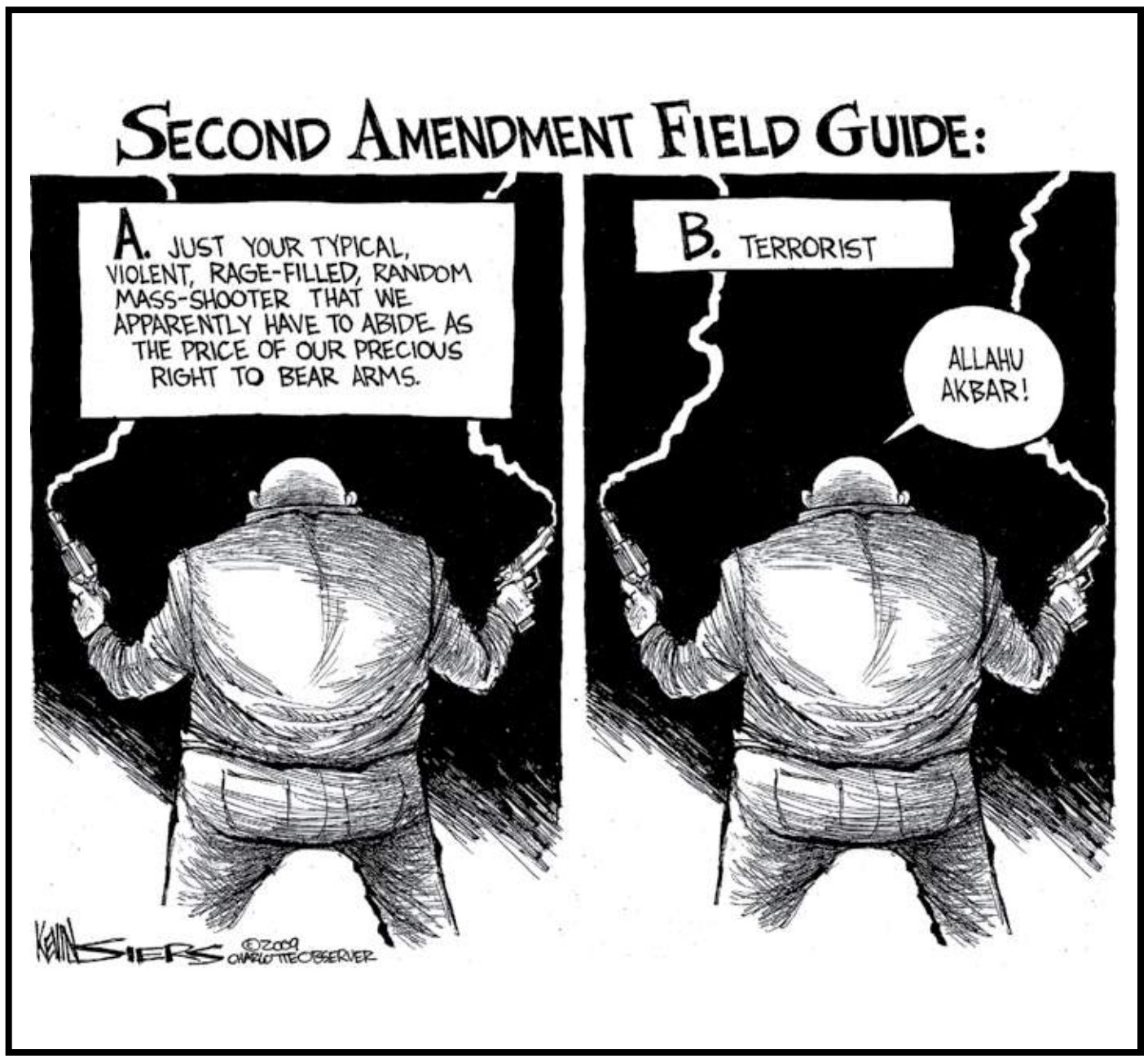
Perhaps the most engaging part of "Sesame Street," though, was its cast of Muppets and monsters, all possessing a slightly lunatic edge to their characters. In their little down-at-the-heels neighborhood, they played out in nonthreatening ways the darker sides of children's souls—the greed, grumpiness, worry and slovenliness—that parents tend to downplay.

In our era, of course, it's impossible to view those early monsters with the same innocent eyes. Cookie Monster, after all, was well on his way to morbid obesity. Big Bird needed a little Xanax to chill the anxiety. Oscar the Grouch's antisocial behavior could portend a criminal future. Bert had some obsessive-compulsive tendencies around those paper clip and bottle-cap collections.

But most of us lose a bit of edginess with middle age, and so has "Sesame Street." The once-shabby block on which the Muppets romp has been cleaned up and painted. Oscar has mellowed from rudely grouchy to mildly cantankerous. Most unthinkable of all, Cookie Monster eats fewer cookies and more vegetables. He sings a song about the glories of produce instead of his iconic ballad, "C is for Cookie."

Still, after 40 years, "Sesame Street" has somehow managed to retain its humor, color and, most important, its primary mission of informing and delighting children. And that's good enough for us.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times


SECOND AMENDMENT FIELD GUIDE:
A. JUST YOUR TYPICAL, VIOLENT, RAGE-FILLED, RANDOM MASS-SHOOTER THAT WE APPARENTLY HAVE TO ABIDE AS THE PRICE OF OUR PRECIOUS RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS.
B. TERRORIST
ALLAHU AKBAR!
KEVIN SIERS ©2009 CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Blaming the rat

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

We just experienced the general consciousness of the masses recently, and it was revealing. Rather than having openness and transparency, the majority of the voters ratified the secrecy and backdoor dealings that characterizes the government's modus operandi. An outsider may be hard-pressed to come up with an explanation that allows the "closed government" to act in such a manner, unless one understands the reward systems that come into play.

Psychologist B. F. Skinner described the frustration he once felt when he ran numerous experiments on lab rats. After several failed experiments he recalled screaming at them: "Why don't you behave? Behave as you ought!" Later on he had a painful insight that the rats were behaving normally. It just wasn't the way he wanted because he had a poorly designed experiment and the rats were responding perfectly to a flawed reward system. When he got his reinforcement variables operating properly, the rats responded in a predictable and controlled manner.

Skinner labeled this phenomenon as "blaming the rat." It occurs when we blame people for making decisions that seem counterintuitive, but it is actually the result of a flawed reward system that has been established and perpetuated.

The axiom that "people do what gets rewarded" is an immutable human behavior that also extends to every living thing in the universe. It is the natural tendency for an entity to desire immediate positive reinforcement. It takes someone with altruistic, ascetic or masochistic tendencies to make choices that would not be in their best interest. People with principles may also do things that cause short-term pain because they value long-term psychic or spiritual gain.

Once you understand the reward systems, then what seems bizarre and illogical makes perfect sense. The health care dilemma in the U.S. provides an interesting example. Even though our health care is the most expensive in the world, Americans are among the sickest people in a developed country. Part of the problem is that doctors do what gets rewarded and avoid what might get punished. Studies show that far more healthy patients are told they are ill than sick patients are diagnosed as healthy. Why? Because doctors will never be sued for the useless and expensive tests they prescribe patients, but they may be sued if they misdiagnose a patient.

Preventative medicine is not a priority in the healthcare industry, and as a result, only 7 percent of the money spent on U.S. health care in 2007 went for prevention. Companies are now beginning to invest more into rewarding employees who take preventative measures by scheduling annual health exams, having exercise programs, and conducting workshops on health issues.

If we want to really make significant and lasting, positive changes, we need to stop "blaming the rats" and examine the reward systems to understand what influences' their behavior. Not only is our healthcare system sick in the CNMI, but the rest of the government quagmire should be diagnosed to understand why policies and practices support a slow, inept and economically suicidal system.

If you experience problems dealing with government offices and public agencies, you can blame it on the reward systems in place. If tourism is slow and investors have dried up, then there's a problem with the reward systems because it is set up to make it laborious for anyone who would like to invest their money here. Tourists are too often treated like unwanted guests. If our reward systems were functioning properly, customer service would be reinforced so that investors and tourists would be served in a manner that encourages them to invest and return often to the islands.

If an entitlement mentality is entrenched, then stop blaming the rats, but put the blame on the reward systems in place. Are the reward systems creating an environment that expects the government to take care of undeserving people, or does it reward individuals who are self-sustaining and strive to make a greater contribution to society?

If your employees are not behaving as they ought, then don't blame them, look at yourself and ask what kind of reward systems you have established to cause them to act in a particular manner. Change the reward systems, and you will change the behavior, and ultimately the results you achieve. Keep the same reward systems and your only solace will be to keep blaming the rats.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Work to be done

It's over! Election results have been tallied. There are still a few important loose ends to tie up. The fact remains that while campaigning was an interesting sideshow that took our minds off our troubles for a while, there are still problems that need immediate solutions.

I am a strong believer that this community has all the intelligence necessary to solve these problems if we just put the right minds busy on the solutions. We need to become one-tracked in solving these dilemmas. Here are some suggestions on how to resolve these problems.

Let's start with our economic woes. Who should take the lead in addressing these? Those who are most affected, the business community. Their planning group is the Chamber of Commerce. Their guidelines have been spelled out by the most recent report of the Strategic Economic Development Council. The Chamber cannot expect our legislators to read the minds of our businessmen. Our businessmen must put together a detailed strategic map for our legislators and governor to follow. I do not pretend to have any knowledge of what that map should contain, but once it is developed, and it may already be in place, a task force from the Chamber of Commerce must be assigned to make sure that our governing officials know what to do and they must make sure they do it. If they don't respond, the public needs to know. The plan should be made public in our newspapers and there should be frequent reports on the progress being made. The CNMI community deserves no less.

Next we have the need for a continuous, reliable supply of electricity. Without this, all the economic plans in the world cannot succeed. There is a Public Utilities Commission and I believe that it is tasked with planning for and implementing actions that will reach this goal. This task is a priority and should receive the full logistical and financial support of all those who can give that support. The CNMI community wants to see frequent reports on the progress of this group. If we know the problems being encountered, someone will have a feasible solution. Suggested solutions that seem workable to me are Tom Arkle's nuclear powered generating plant for which I'm sure we could get assistance from the Department of the Interior. Another solution, my personal favorite, would be to make available loans or grants for individuals and businesses to become energy self-sufficient using either wind power or photovoltaic or both. Payback to the community would be a decrease on the demands on CUC. The individuals and businesses would benefit by decreased utility costs. If by chance, such loans or grants are available and I am unaware of them, I would certainly be grateful for that information.

Alas, the Commonwealth Health Center, I honestly need to think this dilemma through more carefully and do more research. It has not been my priority because I have had the good fortune and inherited genetic capacity to remain a healthy, 70-year-old male. I know, however, that one of these days, I will need the services of CUC most desperately. Hopefully it will be some time far in the future, like 10 or 15 years.

This "Letter to the Editor" is really a plea to our community. Let's stop quibbling about less important problems, issues, and concentrate on accomplishing the work that still needs to be done. We can do it!

Roger N. Ludwick
Sadog Tasi, Saipan

Fears be gone!

This is the flip side to Mr. Ambrose M. Bennett's letter to the editor dated Nov. 10, 2009.

Mr. Ambrose, due process is guaranteed in both the U.S. and the CNMI constitutions. It is the very essence of our democracy. If I'm not mistaken, any changes in policy or enactment of laws by either the U.S. or the CNMI, must be consistent with the U.S. Constitution and in accordance with section 902 and 702 of the Covenant between the U.S. and the CNMI. Implementation of regulations and policies or enactment of laws without consultation is a violation of not only the Administrative Procedures Act but also the Covenant. Therefore, the Administration *is* obligated by fiduciary duty to pursue redress. Contrary to some opinions, it is the governor's fiduciary duty to right a wrong on behalf of his people. Since the case is being heard and judgment will be issued before Nov. 28, the governor's case has merit. Otherwise it would have been thrown out of court as trivial.

In your Nov. 10, 2009, letter to the editor, you stated *"I will be the first to say the CNMI has not been always treated fairly by America…"* Should we turn the other cheek and forget about the injustice, or follow in the footstep of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and fight for what is right for our people? You mentioned your forebear's emergence from slavery. My dear sir, slavery has been in practice since the Stone Age, Egyptian, Roman Empire and beyond. Read the CNMI's history. We were slaves, slaughtered and treated like animals, by the Japanese Empire merely 60 some years ago, and a host of other nations before them. We've emerged as well and are thankful that America came to our rescue and, after decades of trusteeship under U.N. mandate, we elected through a covenant (treaty) to be a member of the American family. Are you suggesting that the governor negate the fundamental principle of the American nation and turn the other cheek if the *federales* violate the APA laws and provisions of the Covenant? Is that the diplomacy you have in mind? Don't you think making references to present and past statesmen in your personal crusade dishonors their accomplishment to protect public interest?

Mr. Ambrose, you remind me of child who didn't get his candy. You made reference to being denied support by the administration as a teacher representative to the Board of Education and what did you do? You fought back because you believe you deserve the support, right? Now you turn around and tell us not to fight the *federales* because they may have violated a law and provisions of the Covenant. Let's face reality, your bellicosity against the administration is one of self-interest and not an issue for rational debate, especially since you contradict yourself often.

You also stated on your previous letter to the editor that *"People with common sense know that if something needs stimulating that means it is in trouble and even dying."* Welcome to reality! Your antagonistic attitude to everybody kept you blind and you failed to notice that economic giants around the world have issued trillions of dollars to stimulate the world economy. Does this mean that their economy is dying? Yes, our economy plummeted almost to the abyss, but so did America and other leading economic nations. This Administration inherited a financial whirlpool beyond control and you want to change it to a candidate who cannot even balance his legislative budget? Wake up, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Focus and you will see it. Change course now and you'll see the light gets dimmer for it will definitely take awhile for Heinz to kick his overspending habit and learn not to spend beyond his means.

As for our fellow Micronesians having a seat in the UN, guess what, they depend on Uncle Sam's dollars as well. In case you haven't heard, Palau is shutting down its consular operations in our area and maybe elsewhere because they lack the funds to operate them. So tell us, how useful is a UN seat if eventually you cannot afford to send someone to sit on it. The *negotiated* U.S. Commonwealth status is the best option for us, especially since we are protected from a unilateral change in policy by the Covenant as well as being under the umbrella of the strongest nation in the world.

The eight points you shared with CUC is right on target, though. You see, rational debate is constructive and welcome. I sincerely hope that those in a position of power will make use of your input for it is the essence of efficient management. You sound like a bright fellow. Perhaps if you use your own suggestion—diplomacy on how you approach issues—you might get a favorable result and accomplish your objectives. I wonder what you'll do should Heinz and Arnold win, heavens forbid, and deny you support as well. More tantrums?

Andy M. Ramos
Rota

Open your eyes

I sit here and I wonder if Saipan residents actually want a change and go forward in life. I see that most of the residents of Saipan have left and the ones still there are struggling to make ends meet. Ask yourself: Is this what we want for the next four years? We have had so many broken promises in the past and now we really need to make a change so we can bring back our people to our islands and make things work in the proper manner it was set to be.

Look at the last four years and look at what Saipan went through—nothing but suffering with Fitial being our governor. Some members of his administration were arrested for stealing money from our government to benefit themselves and that is why CUC is in the condition it is in and the residents of Saipan are paying for it. Is this what you want for another four years?

People of Saipan, wake up and look at your life now and what has occurred in the last four years. Ask yourself: Did you get anywhere? Have there been a big change in the economy? I know I can answer no and why because that is why I left Saipan. I was tired of what I continued to see on our island and I was disgusted that our people continued to live the lives they have and think things will change with Fitial being governor. I know that Heinz/Arnold will do what is best for the people and for our island so we can move forward and not backwards.

People of Saipan, open your eyes and think with your head and do what is right for your future and the future of our children and most of all our island. We cannot go on another four years and nothing has been accomplished. Heinz /Arnold are not making promises to our island and our people; they want to make changes that are necessary in order for our island to survive the crisis we are in at this moment. It's like what our President Obama said: "It is going to take more than four years to fix what is needed in the United States but changes will be made. Just believe in me." Heinz /Arnold want to be the ones to fix what is needed on our island and they are the ones who know what our island needs to make those changes and fix the issues on hand. With that being said, people of Saipan, I hope I have opened your eyes and made you think because at this moment we need to change and bring our people back to the islands.

Tia Ichihara
Salem, Oregon

Thank you

To Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Senate members, and members of the House: Thank you for your support in voting for S.B. 16-44 that is now P.L. 16-34, which was signed into law on March 23, 2009. National Nurse Practitioner Week is recognized this year from Nov. 8-14, 2009 because of the significance of passing P.L. 16-34, a bill that serves to benefit the health care system and the people seeking health services in the CNMI. Our efforts in pushing for this bill were motivated by the evident need to increase access to quality health care with the limited doctors and health care providers in the CNMI and the struggles within the health care system that was negatively affecting public health services to the people of the CNMI. Through this struggle, however, lessons were learned and strength was gained. There were many key people who provided us with guidance and support through this and we will not forget each and every one of you. If ever any of your children or family member shall walk in a nurse's path and become a Nurse Practitioner one day, know that you were a part of this significant change that will benefit them and their patients.

I want to thank Sen. Joseph Mendiola for taking the initiative to introduce S.B. 16-44 and all the Senate members. Health care service is more stable at the Tinian Health Center and there is a significant improvement in keeping these services available. I want to thank the members of the House, especially Floor Leader Joseph Camacho, for giving us his "110 percent" support and confidence and Rep. Oscar Babauta for his full support and guidance. I want to thank Dr. Balachandra, Dr. Ramsey, Dr. Don Hardt, Dr. Grant, Dr. Hocog, Dr. Lamar, Dr. Brostrom, and Dr. Beiling for writing support letters to the Legislature to support this bill. And a special thank you to Honorable Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for signing P.L. 16-34 into law.

In the CNMI, Nurse Practitioners provide services at the Southern Community Wellness Center (the only public health clinic on Saipan), Women's Clinic at CHC, FHP clinic, MAP clinic, Tinian Health Center, and at the Rota Health Center. Nurse Practitioner services have been in the CNMI for about 20 years now and there are currently over seven Nurse Practitioners providing health services to the CNMI people. Thank you again for your support and confidence in us.

Bertha Peters Camacho, MSN, NP
Southern Community Wellness Center,
Department of Public Health

Your vote

Consider this: If you once again voted for a candidate because of his/her family name, relationship to you, or what you hoped to personally gain from that candidate, you did the Commonwealth, and ultimately your children, a disservice. This type of voter mentality is the direct cause of the situation the Commonwealth is in today.

Ron Mandell
Gualo Rai, Saipan

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered sprinkles in the morning, then mostly sunny with a slight chance of showers in the afternoon. East winds 10 to 15 mph	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87 ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

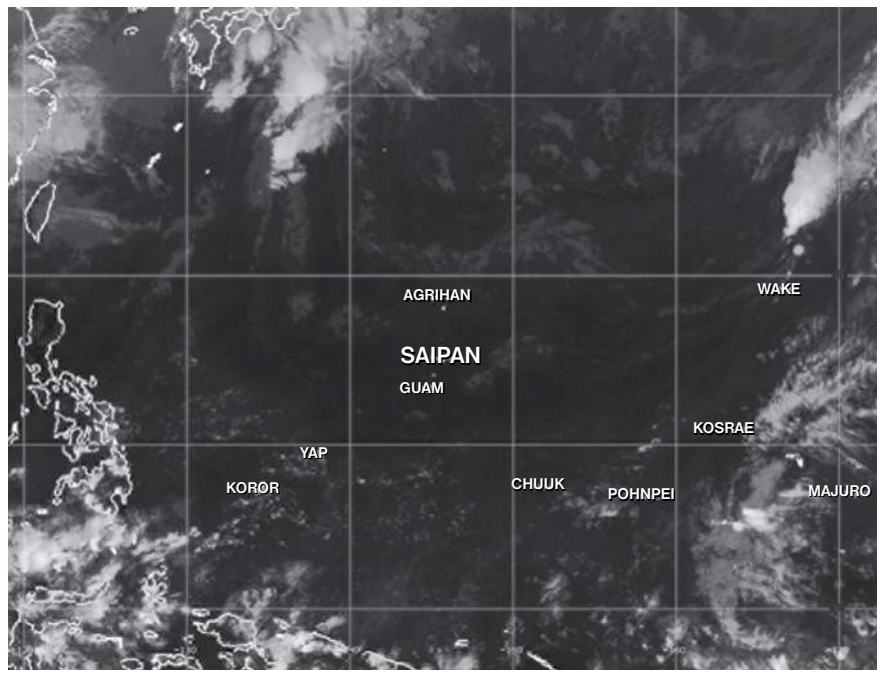
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Rain	▲84 ▼75
Palau	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Yap	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87 ▼73
Kosrae	Showers	▲89 ▼76
Majuro	Rain	▲87 ▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲64 ▼53
Beijing	Flurries	▲65 ▼44
Hong Kong	Showers	▲81 ▼75
Honolulu	Showers	▲83 ▼74
London	Cloudy	▲56 ▼41
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲72 ▼52
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼75
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲77 ▼52
Miami	Showers	▲82 ▼70
New York	Cloudy	▲47 ▼39
Osaka	Showers	▲67 ▼54
Paris	Cloudy	▲51 ▼43
Pusan	Dreary	▲74 ▼55
Rome	Sunny	▲58 ▼44
Salem	Showers	▲64 ▼43
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲62 ▼51
Seoul	Cloudy	▲66 ▼47
Tokyo	Showers	▲64 ▼54
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲50 ▼36

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak circulation is centered north of Wake Island at 22N165E with surface trough northeastward from the center to beyond 25N168E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are within 70 miles of a line from 23N167E to beyond 25N169E.Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms just east of Kosrae within 150 miles of a line from 2N165E to 5N168E and northeast of Tarawa within 150 miles of a line from 3N176E to 6N180E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:22 AM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
9:35 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
4:10 PM Today	HighTide:	2.0 Feet
10:56 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:17 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:18 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:18 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:19 AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:51 AM	2:15 PM
Friday	2:46 AM	2:55 PM
Saturday	3:40 AM	3:37 PM
Sunday	4:35 AM	4:20 PM
Monday	5:31 AM	5:06 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 4, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:45am	5:35am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:15pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:30am	4:05am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:20am	4:05am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW298	10:05pm	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	4, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1 via GUM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	2,4,6,7 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
4,765.90
Up 23.40
(+0.49%)

HONG KONG
22,257.34
Up 189.18
(+0.85%)

JAKARTA
2,389.65
Up 7.69
(+0.32%)

TOKYO
9,871.68
Up 0.95
(+0.01%)

K. LUMPUR
1,271.78
Down 2.30
(-0.18%)

MANILA
3,047.14
Up 50.43
(+1.68%)

SINGAPORE
2,717.08
Up 9.48
(+0.35%)

SEOUL
1,594.82
Up 12.52
(+0.79%)

BANGKOK
713.08.57
Up 4.88
(+0.69%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
10,246.97
+0.20%

S&P
1,093.01
-0.01%

NASDAQ
2,151.08
-0.14%

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0767
British Pound	0.5977
Canadian Dollar	1.0496
Chinese Yuan	6.8267
Euro	0.6678
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7500
Indian Rupee	46.5550
Indonesian Rupiah	9,405.0000
Japanese Yen	89.7850
Malaysian Ringgit	3.3895
New Zealand Dollar	1.3515
Philippine Peso	46.9350
Singapore Dollar	1.3889
South Korean Won	1,162.4000
Swiss Franc	1.0581
Taiwan Dollar	32.3435
Thailand Baht	33.3100

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Job openings remain close to record-lows

WASHINGTON (AP)—Job openings are at rock-bottom levels, according to government and private surveys released Tuesday, a trend that could keep the unemployment rate high even as layoffs slow.

Small businesses in particular are reluctant to add workers as they struggle to obtain credit. Many are pushing their current employees to produce more. Economists say small businesses account for about 60 percent of new jobs.

Still, there are some pockets of hiring as demand for information technology and sales professionals grows, according to government reports and job search Web sites. And there are signs that companies are adding more human resources personnel, which could signal more hiring down the road.

"We've seen a real spike in the hiring of contract recruiters," said Phil Haynes, managing director of AllianceQ, an employers' association that includes companies such as Starbucks Corp., Bank of America Corp. and Intuit Inc. "The recruiters come before the jobs."

But overall, it's a tough time to be out of work. There are about 6.1 unemployed workers, on average, competing for each job opening, a Labor Department report shows. That's down slightly from 6.2 last month, the most since the department began tracking job openings nine years ago.

It's a sharp increase from only 1.7 workers per opening when the recession began in December 2007.

The department's Job Openings and Labor Turnover survey said employers advertised about 2.5 million job openings at the end of September, up slightly from the previous month. That's down from a peak of 4.8 million openings in June 2007.

Layoffs are slowing a bit. Employers cut a net total of 190,000 jobs in October, the government said last week, much lower than the average of about 700,000 a month in the first quarter of this year. But until companies are willing to hire, the unemployment rate is likely to keep rising from its current level of 10.2 percent, the highest in 26 years.

The increase in joblessness came even as the economy grew by 3.5 percent in the July-September quarter, the strongest signal yet that the recession is over.

Many economists worry the U.S. will experience a jobless recovery. That happened after the last two recoveries in 1991 and 2001, when the unemployment rate didn't peak until 15 months and 19 months, respectively, after those recessions ended.

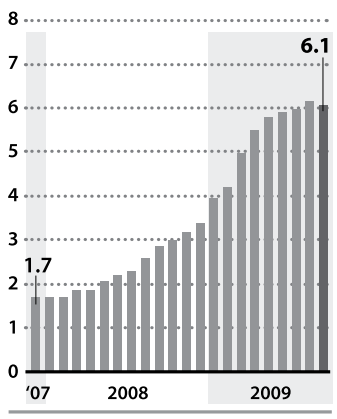
The National Federation of Independent Business said Tuesday that small companies remain skeptical about the recovery. Its Index of Small Business Optimism rose 0.3 points to 89.1 last month, the third straight increase but still below the 94.6 reading in December 2007.

Job openings more competitive

On average, there are 6.1 unemployed workers competing for each job opening, up from 1.7 workers per opening when the recession began in December 2007.

Ratio of unemployed workers per job openings

December 2007-September 2009



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics AP

GM chairman says co. is committed to repaying aid

NEW YORK (AP)—General Motors Co. remains committed to repaying its billions of dollars in government loans, though it's too soon to say when that will happen, the automaker's chairman said Tuesday.

"Can GM pay back its loans? You bet," Ed Whitacre said during an address at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin, Texas. "I can't tell you when, but it won't be very long."

But Whitacre added that the company, which has received more than $50 billion in taxpayer bailouts and is majority-owned by the U.S. government, has a long way to go before it's in "fighting shape" again.

Both the government and GM have said they expect the automaker to become publicly traded sometime next year. However, Whitacre said Tuesday the timing of any initial public offering of GM stock remains uncertain and depends on when the company returns to profitability.

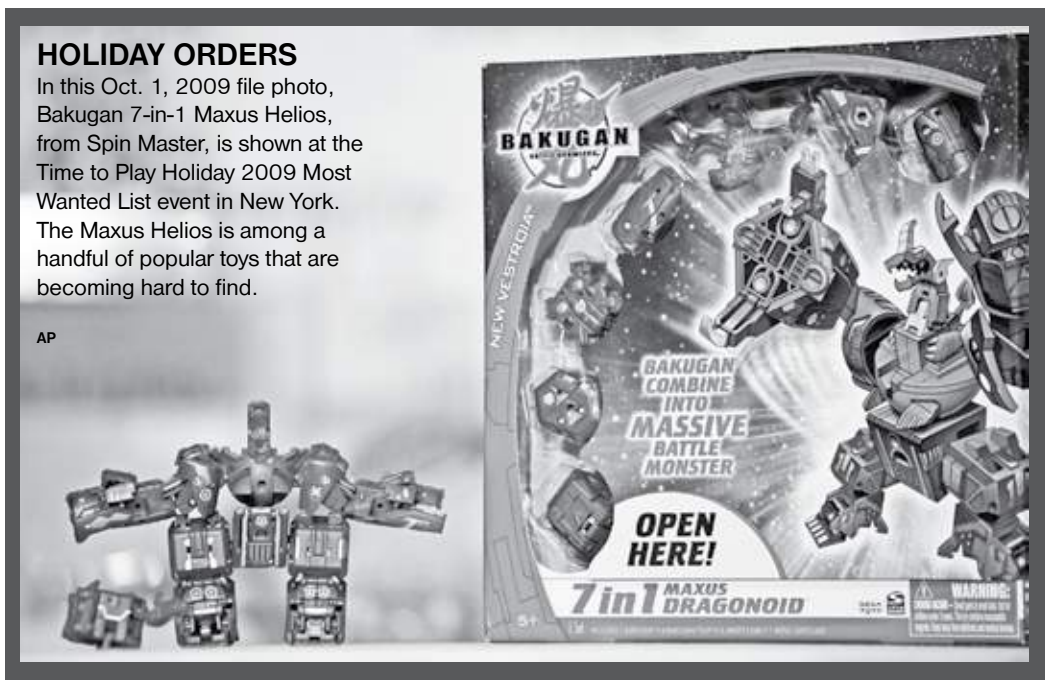
Whitacre said a stable economy remains the "determining factor" for GM. He also said higher employment levels and a thaw in the credit markets were necessary for the company's business to improve.

"Increasing employment is the fastest and surest way to grow," he said.

Government investigators have challenged the likelihood that taxpayers will recoup their investment in GM and in Detroit rival Chrysler Group LLC. The Government Accountability Office said in a report issued last week that the automakers' value would have to soar to levels they didn't even approach when they were healthier for the taxpayer loans to be repaid.

HOLIDAY ORDERS
In this Oct. 1, 2009 file photo, Bakugan 7-in-1 Maxus Helios, from Spin Master, is shown at the Time to Play Holiday 2009 Most Wanted List event in New York. The Maxus Helios is among a handful of popular toys that are becoming hard to find.

AP



Madoff associate wills bulk of fortune to charity

NEW YORK (AP)—A man who made billions of dollars off Bernard Madoff's Ponzi scheme signed a will leaving the bulk of his fortune to charity, but the gift's ultimate size may depend on legal wrangling over how much of the money rightfully belongs to cheated victims.

Madoff

Jeffry Picower, 67, a prominent philanthropist, drowned after suffering a heart attack in the swimming pool of his Palm Beach, Fla., mansion on Oct. 25.

Unlike some other Madoff investors, he died a rich man. The trustee unraveling Madoff's financial web said Picower withdrew some $7 billion from his Madoff accounts over the decades—well more than he invested.

That money is now known to have been stolen from other people, and Picower's widow said in a statement this week that the family wished to return some of it through "a fair and generous settlement" that might help overcome some of the "devastation" wrought on Madoff's victims.

The exact amount of that settlement is still unknown.

Madoff trustee Irving Picard has sued claiming victims are entitled to get back all $7 billion. The family has argued that under New York law, it should only have to return bogus profits they earned in the past six years, or around $2.4 billion.

FDIC boss: Big banks still aren't lending enough

NEW YORK (AP)—The head of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. said Tuesday she's "very worried" that the nation's biggest banks aren't lending enough and warned the economy could take another turn for the worse without increased access to credit.

FDIC Chairman Sheila Bair said the FDIC's upcoming quarterly report would show that "not many large institutions are doing a very good job of lending." Instead, she said, some are taking advantage of near-zero interest rates by borrowing dollars cheaply to buy higher-yielding assets like stocks or commodities—a move known as the "carry trade."

"I don't see much money going out (from banks). I see a lot of carry trade," Bair told a banking conference in New York. "It used to be you take deposits and you lend out money. We'd like to see more of that."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Report: AIG CEO ready to quit over pay constraints

NEW YORK (AP)—After just three months as head of battered insurer American International Group, Robert Benmosche has threatened to leave his post as he struggles to deal with heavy government oversight and restrictions on what the bailed-out company wants to pay employees, according to a published report. Citing unnamed people familiar with the matter, The Wall Street Journal reported online late Tuesday that Benmosche told AIG's board he was "done" with the job, although he reportedly is reconsidering his stance in the face of the board's dismay. According to the people, the former MetLife CEO is frustrated with the constraints of leading a company majority-owned by the government, the paper said. The Journal said Benmosche has complained to AIG's board about the outcome of the Treasury Department's pay review which slashed pay for a number of AIG executives by 91 percent from 2008.

2 ex-Bear Stearns hedge-fund managers acquitted

NEW YORK (AP)—Two Bear Stearns executives who ran hedge funds that collapsed after betting heavily on the shaky subprime mortgage market were acquitted Tuesday of lying to investors—a defeat in the government's bid to punish fraud exposed by the financial crisis. A jury in federal court in Brooklyn deliberated about eight hours over two days before finding Ralph Cioffi and Matthew Tannin not guilty of conspiracy and other charges in an alleged scheme that cost 300 investors about $1.6 billion and nearly caused the demise of Bear Stearns itself. The firm avoided bankruptcy in a rescue buyout by JPMorgan Chase & Co. Both men had been charged with three counts of securities fraud and two counts of wire fraud. Cioffi was also charged with insider trading.

Oil hovers near $79 amid rising US oil supplies

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices fell below $79 a barrel Wednesday in Asia as investors mulled rising U.S. oil inventories and a weaker dollar. Benchmark crude for December delivery down 14 cents to $78.91 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 38 cents to settle at $79.05 on Tuesday. U.S. oil inventories rose last week, the American Petroleum Institute said late Tuesday. Crude stocks increased 1.2 million barrels while analysts had expected a rise of 1.0 million barrels, according to a survey by Platts, the energy information arm of McGraw-Hill Cos.

Nation

DC sniper Muhammad executed for 2002 attacks

JARRATT, Va. (AP)—John Allen Muhammad, the mastermind behind the sniper attacks that left 10 dead, was executed Tuesday night as relatives of the victims watched, reliving the killing spree that terrorized the Washington metro area for three weeks in October 2002.

He looked calm and stoic, but was twitching and blinking as the injections began, defiant to the end, refusing to utter any final words. Victims' families sat behind glass while watching the execution, separated from the rest of the 27 witnesses.

"He died very peacefully, much more than most of his victims," said Prince William County prosecutor Paul Ebert, who witnessed Muhammad die by injection at 9:11 p.m. at Greensville Correctional Center, south of Richmond. Muhammad, dressed in a blue shirt, jeans and flip-flops, had no final statement.

Muhammad was executed for killing Dean Harold Meyers, who was shot in the head at a Manassas gas station during the three-week spree across Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C.

Nelson Rivera, whose wife, Lori Ann Lewis-Rivera, was gunned down as she vacuumed her van at a Maryland gas station said when he watched Muhammad's chest moving for the last time, he was glad.

"I feel better. I think I can breathe better and I'm happy he's gone. Because he's not going to hurt anyone else," he said.

Dean's brother, Bob Meyers, said watching the execution was a point of closure but that he was "overcome by the sadness that the whole situation generates in my heart."

"Honestly it was surreal watching the life being sapped out of somebody intentionally was very different," he said on CNN's "Larry King Live."

J. Wyndal Gordon, one of Muhammad's attorneys, described his client in his final hours as fearless and still insisting he was innocent.

"He will die with dignity—dignity to the point of defiance," Gordon said.

The shootings terrorized the region, as victim after victim was shot down while doing everyday chores: going shopping, pumping gas, mowing the lawn. One child was shot while walking into his middle school.

People stayed indoors. Those who did go outside weaved as they walked or bobbed their heads to make themselves a less easy target.

The campaign of terror ended on Oct. 24, 2002, when police captured Muhammad and his teenage accomplice, Lee Boyd Malvo, as they slept at a Maryland rest stop in a car they had outfitted for a shooter to perch in its trunk without being detected. Malvo is serving a life prison term.

They also were suspected of fatal shootings in other states, including Louisiana, Alabama and Arizona.

AP

A Corrections officer walks past a guard tower at the Greensville Correctional Center in Jarratt, Va., Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2009.

ACROSS THE NATION

2 dead, 2 others wounded at Ore. office park

TUALATIN, Ore. (AP)—A man opened fire with a rifle Tuesday at a drug-testing laboratory in suburban Portland, killing a female employee and wounding two other workers before fatally shooting himself, police said. The gunman and the dead woman apparently had a "relationship," Tualatin Police Chief Kent Barker said. He did not elaborate. No names were released. However, Barker said the injured workers were a 20-year-old woman and a 63-year-old man. "There were people running all over the place when the officers first responded," Barker said. "It was pretty chaotic at first."

12 charged after library books worth $87K stolen

WASHINGTON (AP)—Authorities threw the book at 12 people Tuesday, accusing them of checking out pricey textbooks from a public library system outside Washington to sell for quick cash. The Prince George's County Memorial Library System in Maryland lost $87,000 worth of material from thefts between November 2008 and July 2009, county prosecutors said. Textbooks and other works were quickly sold to used book stores at a fraction of their original value, investigators said. Prince George's County authorities said the suspects, at least some of whom were related, withdrew close to the limit of 75 books from 12 of the library system's 18 locations. Each is charged with theft over $500 and faces a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison.

Man allegedly reports fake murder to speed police

TYLER, Texas (AP)—Police said an East Texas man has outsmarted himself in trying to get a quicker response from officers to an alleged assault. Tyler police said 38-year-old Mark Anthony Johnson called 911 on Monday night and reported that he'd just committed a homicide and was armed with a weapon. According to a Tyler police statement, several officers sped to the northwest Tyler location with lights flashing and sirens screaming. They found Johnson, who allegedly told them the homicide was a ruse to get a quicker response to what his real beef was, a simple assault complaint. Indeed, the Tyler police did act quickly. They arrested Johnson and charged him with filing a false report. He's in the Smith County Jail with bond set at $3,000. A jail spokeswoman said she has no record of an attorney for him.

US imam wanted in Yemen over al-Qaida suspicions

SAN'A, Yemen (AP)—A radical American imam who communicated with the Fort Hood shooting suspect and called him a hero was once arrested in Yemen on suspicion of giving religious approval to militants to conduct kidnappings. Yemeni authorities are now hunting for Anwar al-Awlaki to determine whether he has al-Qaida ties.

Al-Awlaki, who has used his personal Web site to encourage Muslims around the world to kill U.S. troops in Iraq, disappeared in Yemen eight months ago, according to his father. Yemeni security officials say they believe he is hiding in a region of the mountainous nation that has become a refuge for Islamic militants.

After his arrest in 2006, investigators were unable to prove any links to al-Qaida, and he was released in late 2007, according to two Yemeni counterterrorism officials and an Interior Ministry official. They spoke Tuesday on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the press.

Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan is accused of killing 13 people in a rampage at the Fort Hood Army post in Texas. He communicated with al-Awlaki in e-mail exchanges 10 to 20 times over several months last year, according to a U.S investigative official in Washington and Rep. Pete Hoekstra of Michigan, the top Republican on the House Intelligence Committee.

The communications, which were intercepted by the FBI, consisted primarily of Hasan posing questions to the imam as a spiritual leader or adviser, and their content was "consistent with the subject matter of (Hasan's) research," a law enforcement official said. The law enforcement and investigative officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the case.

Blame game erupts over probe of Fort Hood suspect

WASHINGTON (AP)—Finger-pointing erupted between federal agencies Tuesday over Fort Hood shooting suspect Nidal Hasan. Government officials said a Defense Department terrorism investigator looked into Hasan's contacts with a radical imam months ago, but a military official denied prior knowledge of the Army psychiatrist's contacts with any Muslim extremists.

The two government officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the case on the record, said the Washington-based joint terrorism task force overseen by the FBI was notified of communications between Hasan and a radical imam overseas, and the information was turned over to a Defense Criminal Investigative Service employee assigned to the task force. The communications were gathered by investigators beginning in December 2008 and continuing into early this year.

That Defense investigator wrote up an assessment of Hasan after reviewing the communications and the Army major's personnel file, according to these officials. The assessment concluded Hasan did not merit further investigation—in large part because his communications with the imam were centered on a research paper about the effects of combat in Iraq and Afghanistan and the investigator determined that Hasan was in fact working on such a paper, the officials said.

Bill Clinton urges Senate passage of health bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former President Bill Clinton urged Senate Democrats on Tuesday to pass health care legislation by year's end, pointedly telling skittish lawmakers that an imperfect bill is preferable to another failure like the one he and the party endured in 1994.

Clinton

"It's not important to be perfect here. It's important to act, to move, to start the ball rolling," the former president told reporters after the closed-door meeting, held on the cusp of Senate debate on intensely controversial legislation. The House cleared its version of the bill late Saturday night on a narrow, party-line vote of 220-215.

Clinton made an unusual visit to the party's weekly closed-door caucus meeting at the invitation of Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., who has said he hopes the Senate can vote on a bill before the year is out and took a step during the day to allow debate to begin as early as next week.

Aides said Reid has yet to receive final information from the Congressional Budget Office on the costs and coverage implications of the still-secret legislation he submitted more than two weeks ago. As soon as he does, he intends to launch a historic debate on legislation to expand coverage to millions who lack it, crack down on insurance industry practices and curb the rise in health care spending nationally.

Several Democrats who attended the meeting with Clinton said the former president did not express an opinion on many of the controversial issues embedded in the health care debate. These range from calls for a government-run insurance option to the availability of abortion coverage in private and government insurance.

"He wasn't asked that and he didn't volunteer to solve Sen. Reid's immediate problems," said Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md.

Instead, several Democrats said, Clinton told them that expanding health care is good policy, and at the same time the best politics.

Asia

SKorea troops on high alert after navy battle

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's troops went on high alert Wednesday for possible retaliation by North Korea after one of its navy ships was nearly destroyed and an officer reportedly killed in a skirmish with the South, ahead of a visit by President Barack Obama.

The clash Tuesday along the disputed western sea border was the first such engagement in seven years, sending tensions soaring about a week before Obama travels to Seoul as part of his Asian tour.

The exchange of fire also occurred just hours before the State Department announced a senior U.S. diplomat will travel to North Korea before year's end to try to entice North Korea back into international negotiations on nuclear disarmament. The dispatch of envoy Stephen Bosworth would mark the first direct talks between Washington and Pyongyang since Obama took office in January.

South Korean officials said the North Korean ship was on fire and heavily damaged following a two-minute skirmish off the west coast—the scene of two bloody naval battles in 1999 and 2002. The South Korean ship was only lightly damaged and there were no South Korean causalities, according to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

South Korea's mass-circulation Chosun Ilbo newspaper and other media reported that one North Korean officer was believed killed and three other sailors wounded. President Lee Myung-bak ordered his Defense Minister Kim Tae-young to strengthen military readiness.

AP

South Korean Navy patrol boats dropped anchors at a naval base in Incheon, South Korea, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2009.

Late Tuesday, Kim said in parliament that he believed the North may take retaliatory action. "The president also has such concerns," Kim said.

South Korea's 680,000-strong military was on heightened alert but detected no unusual North Korean troop movements, an officer at the Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

Asked if U.S. troops in South Korea had raised their alert level, David Oten, a spokesman for the U.S. military in Seoul, said it does not comment on operational or security issues. The U.S. stations about 28,500 troops in South Korea to deter possible North Korean aggression.

The officer, speaking on condition of anonymity citing department policy, said the heightened posture meant having troops stay vigilant but that there were no additional deployments in border areas. South Korean ships did routine patrols along the sea border Wednesday, he said.

Presidential security adviser Kim Sung-hwan was quoted as saying by Yonhap news agency that signs of a North Korean retaliation have not been detected. Kim, however, said North Korea may take time before retaliating.

NATO seizes bomb-making materials in Afghanistan

KABUL (AP)—International troops and Afghan police seized 250 tons of ammonium nitrate fertilizer—enough to make up to a couple hundred roadside bombs, the Taliban's most lethal weapon in what has been the deadliest year of the war, NATO announced Tuesday.

Separately, video footage emerged of insurgents brandishing what appears to be limited stocks of U.S. ammunition in a remote area of eastern Afghanistan where eight Americans died in a battle last month.

Sunday's raids in the southern city of Kandahar appeared to net one of the largest hauls of the war. NATO officials hoped the fertilizer seizure would hurt Taliban militants, whose homemade bombs have become the biggest killer of U.S. and allied troops.

Acting on a tip, international forces and Afghan police discovered 1,000 100-pound bags of ammonium nitrate fertilizer and 5,000 parts for roadside bombs in a warehouse, the military said. After the initial find Sunday, an additional 4,000 100-bags of fertilizer were found in a nearby compound. The joint forces also made 15 arrests.

The seizure included enough fertilizer to make dozens to a couple of hundred roadside bombs, said John Pike, director of the military think tank Globalsecurity.org.

Afghanistan is not the only country in which fertilizer is used to make bombs. In 1995, Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols detonated a truck packed with 4,800 pounds of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil to destroy the Oklahoma City federal building, killing 168 people.

Fertilizer is easily available in agricultural areas of southern Afghanistan, and the Taliban have been successful manufacturing homemade bombs from this and other materials.

In a country awash in weapons after 30 years of war, the Taliban also appear to have little trouble obtaining rifles, machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades and other ordnance, some of which may be bought on Asian black markets.

There is not much evidence to suggest that the Taliban rely on weapons captured or stolen from NATO forces or that they even need to shore up their own stockpiles, Pike said.

"I don't think they have a shortage of Kalashnikovs," he said. "I think it's probably more often a case of it leaking out of the Afghan army. I think the Afghan National Army has a high AWOL rate and everything's for sale in Afghanistan."

The footage of insurgents handling weapons, including anti-personnel mines with U.S. markings on them, was broadcast Tuesday on Al-Jazeera.

Marine base debate opens rift in US-Japan ties

TOKYO (AP)—Political wrangling by Japan's new government over plans to move a major U.S. Marine base on Okinawa has opened a wide rift in Washington's most important Asian alliance ahead of President Barack Obama's visit later this week.

The relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma is the centerpiece of a sweeping realignment plan for the 47,000 U.S. troops in Japan.

Washington and Tokyo agreed three years ago to move the airstrip, which is located in a crowded city and for decades has stood as a symbol of the heavy burden the tiny island of Okinawa has to bear to support Japan's military alliance with the United States.

But, in one of its first significant diplomatic moves, Japan's newly elected liberal administration has put the whole deal on hold.

Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, who took office in September, has refused to accept any deadlines for signing off on the deal to move Futenma to a more remote part of Okinawa. With no progress likely during his Friday meeting with Obama, he was expected to focus on Japan's offer of $5 billion in new aid for Afghanistan and to discuss climate change and economic issues.

Obama tried to smooth over the dispute in remarks before his departure.

"I'm confident that once that review is completed that they will conclude that the alliance that we have, the basing arrangements that have been discussed, all those things serve the interests of Japan," Obama told NHK, Japan's public broadcaster.

Even so, the two sides remain so far apart on the Futenma move that Senior White House Asia adviser Jeffrey Bader told reporters Monday that Washington does not believe the base issue is "ripe for resolution or a focus" of the two-day visit, which was delayed by a day for Obama to attend a memorial service for victims of the Fort Hood shooting.

Vulnerable countries urge world to cut emissions

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—A group of 11 countries vulnerable to adverse effects of global warming urged world leaders Tuesday to reach a binding agreement at the next month's global conference on the issue.

The countries called President Barack Obama and the leaders of emerging economies such as India and China, to personally attend the talks in Copenhagen.

Officials from Bangladesh, Barbados, Bhutan, Ghana, Kenya, Kiribati, the Maldives, Nepal, Rwanda, Tanzania and Vietnam—calling themselves the V11—pledged at the Climate Vulnerable Forum in the Maldives to committing to greening their economies as their contribution toward cutting emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

On Monday, President Mohamed Nasheed of the Maldives asked fellow developing nations to become "carbon neutral" and lead a drive to reduce global warming.

The group issued a statement called upon all countries to follow the "redouble their efforts at reaching a binding, ambitious, fair and effective agreement" in Copenhagen.

The low-lying Maldives has become an outspoken voice on global warming, even staging an underwater Cabinet meeting last month to promote awareness about rising sea levels. It is feared that rising seas could swamp the Indian Ocean archipelago within a century. Its islands average 7 feet (2.1 meters) above sea level.

Maldives has already pledged to become the world's first carbon-neutral nation and last month announced plans to build a wind farm that can supply 40 percent of its electricity. Carbon neutrality refers to achieving an equal balance of the amount of carbon dioxide—the leading greenhouse gas—emitted and the amount sequestered or offset.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China berates Dalai Lama visit to area near Tibet

BEIJING (AP)—China lashed out at the Dalai Lama's visit to a disputed border region in India on Tuesday, saying his trip to the area revealed the exiled Tibetan leader's separatist agenda. In a now familiar tit-for-tat response, the revered Buddhist figure and Nobel Peace Prize winner defended his trip, saying it had been overly politicized by others. The Dalai Lama has been holding prayer meetings and teaching sessions with adherents in the Himalayan town of Tawang, near the frontier with Chinese-controlled Tibet.

Suicide car bomb kills 24 in northwest Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—A suicide car bomber attacked a crowded market in northwestern Pakistan on Tuesday, killing 24 people and illustrating militants' growing willingness to target civilians in their war against the government. Taliban insurgents apparently hope the attacks will weaken the army's resolve to wage an offensive against the the group's stronghold along the Afghan border. But the indiscriminate killing could backfire by further turning the public against Islamist extremists, as happened in Iraq. The bombing was the fourth in about a month to target a market in or around Peshawar, the main city in the northwest. The attacks have produced some of the largest death tolls in the past few years, killing a total of more than 200 people.

Philippines' Mayon volcano spews ash, could erupt

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Scientists say the cone-shaped Mayon volcano in the central Philippines has shot an ash plume into the air and are advising nearby residents to be ready to move in case of eruption. Chief state volcanologist Renato Solidum says Mayon's alert level remains the same but if magma continues to rise below the glowing crater it could erupt within weeks. The country's most active volcano last erupted in 2006. Typhoon-triggered mudslides later that year buried entire villages, killing more than 1,000 people.

Landslide triggered by rains kills 42 in India

NEW DELHI (AP)—A landslide triggered by torrential seasonal rains swept through a hilly region in southern India, killing at least 42 people, an official said Tuesday. The landslide demolished nearly 300 tin-roofed mud huts Monday in the Ooty and Coonoor region of Tamil Nadu state, a state flood control official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters. The region is nearly 1,120 miles (1,800 kilometers) south of the capital, New Delhi. Rescuers found 14 bodies in the debris Monday and another 28 on Tuesday, the official said, adding that eight injured people were hospitalized.

World

Vatican looks to heavens for signs of alien life

VATICAN CITY (AP)—E.T. phone Rome. Four hundred years after it locked up Galileo for challenging the view that the Earth was the center of the universe, the Vatican has called in experts to study the possibility of extraterrestrial alien life and its implication for the Catholic Church.

"The questions of life's origins and of whether life exists elsewhere in the universe are very suitable and deserve serious consideration," said the Rev. Jose Gabriel Funes, an astronomer and director of the Vatican Observatory.

Funes, a Jesuit priest, presented the results Tuesday of a five-day conference that gathered astronomers, physicists, biologists and other experts to discuss the budding field of astrobiology—the study of the origin of life and its existence elsewhere in the cosmos.

Funes said the possibility of alien life raises "many philosophical and theological implications" but added that the gathering was mainly focused on the scientific perspective and how different disciplines can be used to explore the issue.

In this July 17, 2008 file photo, Pope Benedict XVI admires the sky above Sydney, Australia.

AP

Chris Impey, an astronomy professor at the University of Arizona, said it was appropriate that the Vatican would host such a meeting.

"Both science and religion posit life as a special outcome of a vast and mostly inhospitable universe," he told a news conference Tuesday. "There is a rich middle ground for dialogue between the practitioners of astrobiology and those who seek to understand the meaning of our existence in a biological universe."

Thirty scientists, including non-Catholics, from the U.S., France, Britain, Switzerland, Italy and Chile attended the conference, called to explore among other issues "whether sentient life forms exist on other worlds."

Funes set the stage for the conference a year ago when he discussed the possibility of alien life in an interview given prominence in the Vatican's daily newspaper.

The Church of Rome's views have shifted radically through the centuries since Italian philosopher Giordano Bruno was burned at the stake as a heretic in 1600 for speculating, among other ideas, that other worlds could be inhabited.

Scientists have discovered hundreds of planets outside our solar system - including 32 new ones announced recently by the European Space Agency. Impey said the discovery of alien life may be only a few years away.

"If biology is not unique to the Earth, or life elsewhere differs bio-chemically from our version, or we ever make contact with an intelligent species in the vastness of space, the implications for our self-image will be profound," he said.

This is not the first time the Vatican has explored the issue of extraterrestrials: In 2005, its observatory brought together top researchers in the field for similar discussions.

In the interview last year, Funes told Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano that believing the universe may host aliens, even intelligent ones, does not contradict a faith in God.

Analysis: France-Germany ties fade

PARIS (AP)—Throughout the Cold War, Germany was the steadfast trans-Atlantic ally—and France the perpetual skeptic. Paris snubbed NATO, booted allied soldiers off its soil and sought a privileged relationship with Moscow.

Then one night the Berlin Wall fell—and 20 years later, the roles subtly have shifted.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy is seeking to be a NATO stalwart, bringing his country back into the alliance's military command structure earlier this year. As a result, France received two NATO command posts.

At the same time, German Chancellor Angela Merkel—while reaching out to the United States—is pursuing closer ties with Russia that have left Washington unsettled.

This evolution in France and Germany's relationships with the Cold War superpowers is altering the shape of their own relationship, which both countries long considered the "motor" of the European Union. Sarkozy and Merkel will send yet another powerful sign of their countries' friendship Wednesday at the Arc de Triomphe, when for the first time French and German leaders jointly mark the anniversary of the Nov. 11 armistice that ended World War I.

Symbols aside, as much as Sarkozy and Merkel might like to emphasize the privileged nature of the Franco-German couple, ties between the countries are no longer what they used to be—and pushing the restart button over and over again does not guarantee a smooth ride.

US diplomat in Honduras trying to revive pact

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—A senior U.S. diplomat flew in Tuesday to try to revive a U.S.-brokered pact between Honduras' deposed president and the coup-imposed government ahead of elections this month.

Ousted President Manuel Zelaya declared the accord a failure last week when interim President Roberto Micheletti announced the creation of a national unity government even though Zelaya had not proposed any candidates.

Time is running out for a solution, with less than three weeks until the election. Zelaya is urging the international community not to recognize the outcome of the Nov. 29 presidential election. The Organization of American States said Tuesday it would not send election monitors unless the political impasse is resolved first.

The newly arrived U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Craig Kelly, who helped broker the pact two weeks ago, "is seeking to resolve the problems that have risen in the dialogue to bring peace to the country," said Rene Zepeda, a spokesman for the interim government.

Kelly talked first with Micheletti. The interim leader's negotiator, Vilma Morales, said Kelly told Micheletti that "the important thing for the government of the United States and the international community is for things to continue the framework of the agreement."

Anger over Afghan war as 6 UK war dead mourned

WOOTTON BASSETT, England (AP)—Grieving over the death of her son in Afghanistan, the woman tore into British Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

"Mr. Brown, listen to me," she said. "I know every injury that my child sustained that day. I know that my son could have survived. But my son bled to death."

A tape of the 13-minute telephone conversation was broadcast by The Sun newspaper Tuesday and then played over and over across Britain, a rallying cry for mounting anger over a war many now see as badly planned and impossible to win.

It came as six other British soldiers killed in Afghanistan were brought home on the eve of Remembrance Day, when Britain honors its war dead. That, too, provided powerful symbolism for a war gone bad, with hundreds of mourners lining the streets and throwing flowers as the hearses made their way through this market town in south central England.

AP

People wearing t-shirts bearing an image of Guardsman Jimmy Major react as the coffin of Major and five other British soldiers are driven through Wootton Bassett, England, after being repatriated at RAF Lyneham, Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2009.

Jacqui Janes' 20-year-old son, Jamie, was not in Tuesday's somber procession. He was mortally wounded by a roadside bomb last month.

When Brown called Monday to offer condolences, her anger and grief boiled over, and she berated him for a lack of troop helicopters, equipment and his spelling errors in the letter—addressing her as "Mrs. James" and making a mistake in her son's name.

WORLD BRIEFS

Brazil college backs down on mini-dress expulsion

SAO PAULO (AP)—Brazil's case of the pink mini-dress that went viral on the Internet has left many scratching their heads: How could it be that an outfit, no matter how short, would cause such an uproar in a tropical nation where skimpy clothing and tiny bikinis barely raise an eyebrow? The answer, a Bandeirante University official said, is not in the pink dress, but in how Geisy Arruda, a 20-year-old tourism student, chose to wear it. In expelling her from the university—where she has since been reinstated—officials said she paraded provocatively and raised the dress. "There are hundreds of girls wearing miniskirts on this campus every day, and nothing has ever happened," Vice Dean Ellis Brown said at a news conference Tuesday. "The size of the dress was never discussed—her behavior was."

Rights report criticizes Kurds over minorities

BAGHDAD (AP)—The ongoing dispute between Iraq's central government in Baghdad and the Kurdish authorities in the country's north threatens to create a "human rights catastrophe" for minority communities in the region, a leading rights watchdog warned in a report Tuesday. The report by the New York-based Human Rights Watch said the small groups in the area—such as Christians, Shabaks and Yazidis—have been targeted by insurgents and are stuck in the middle between the semi-autonomous region of Kurdistan and the government in Baghdad, the report said. "Iraqi Christians, Yazidis, and Shabaks have suffered extensively since 2003," said Joe Stork, deputy Middle East director at HRW. "Iraqi authorities, both Arab and Kurdish, need to rein in security forces, extremists and vigilante groups to send a message that minorities cannot be attacked with impunity."

UA pilot charged with being over alcohol limit

LONDON (AP)—A United Airlines pilot was pulled from a plane and arrested shortly before takeoff after a co-worker suspected him of being drunk, police and air officials said Tuesday. Scotland Yard said the 51-year-old was arrested after officers were called aboard United Airlines Flight 949, due to fly from London's Heathrow Airport to Chicago, around noon on Monday. A spokesman for the police force said officers arrested the man "on suspicion of being aviation staff whilst exceeding the prescribed alcohol limit." "I.e. he was suspected to be drunk," the spokesman said, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with force policy.

Environment

SCIENCE PICKS

Did you know that that the United States uses less water today than 35 years ago and that there might be caves on Mars? In this edition of *Science Picks*, learn more about these stories, as well as the latest on carbon storage in the Arctic. Also, discover why bats are dying near wind turbines and how endangered whooping cranes are being saved.

United States using less water today

The United States uses less water today than it did 35 years ago, despite a 30 percent population increase. Declines in water use are partly attributable to alternative cooling methods at power plants and more efficient irrigation systems. According to the latest USGS water use report, nearly half of all water used in the United States goes to cooling thermoelectric power plants. Irrigation accounts for 31 percent. Eleven percent of water is used for public supply, and the remaining 9 percent is used for industrial, livestock, aquaculture, mining and rural domestic uses.

Caves provide Martians (or scientists) a new place to hide

Caves might lie beneath a series of depressions discovered on Mars. These caves could provide shelter for future Mars exploration missions. They could also shed light on whether microbial life forms have ever existed on the "Red Planet." The depressions were detected by the USGS Astrogeology Science Center using high-resolution images conveyed through Mars-orbiting satellites. Scientists believe some of these caves were created from a massive volcano, when solid ceilings of cooled material formed over lava channels during ancient volcanic eruptions. Sections of these ceilings collapsed at some point to form the observed skylight entrances, or caves.

Thawing Arctic may mean more atmospheric carbon

One of the world's most important sinks of carbon could start to release its contents into the atmosphere. A new study by the USGS and the University of Alaska at Fairbanks shows that the Arctic has been responsible for up to 25 percent of the earth's carbon sink in recent decades. The carbon enters the Arctic from the atmosphere and is trapped in the permafrost, the frozen layer of soil underneath the land's surface. This layer is an effective carbon sink because the permafrost is too cold to for the carbon to decompose very quickly. However, global warming is causing the permafrost to thaw, exposing the previously frozen soil to decomposition and erosion, and could make the permafrost a source of atmospheric carbon, rather than a sink.

Wind energy: A scare for bats and birds

Wind energy is a promising source of "green energy." However, unprecedented numbers of certain bat species are consistently dying at wind turbines, and birds are also affected. USGS scientists are investigating what makes bats and birds vulnerable to turbines, as well as the extent to which turbines may be affecting their populations. Scientists are also looking into possible solutions for reducing bat mortality at wind energy facilities.

Whooping cranes are flying high!

The Class of 2009 whooping cranes has begun its journey! Twenty-one young whoopers hatched in captivity are now migrating 1,285 miles from Wisconsin to Florida, guided by ultralight aircraft. These migrating cranes were raised in captivity, cared for by USGS scientists wearing crane costumes to mask the human form and ensure the cranes remain wild. After being guided by the ultralight aircraft to their wintering habitat in Florida, amazingly these cranes will be able to find their way back to Wisconsin on their own in the spring. In the 1940s there were only 15 of these large, white birds. Today there are 350 whoopers living in the wild, and another 150 in captivity.

Water is out of this world

A moon vacation resort may be possible yet! The moon, long rendered dry and barren, has been shown by new research to hold water at all latitudes. USGS scientists used spectral images obtained from two spacecraft to make this discovery. They found both water and hydroxyl, a molecule consisting of hydrogen and oxygen. Scientists have long predicted the presence of moon ice, but were surprised to see water in direct sunlight. Continuing researching on moon water will look at where the water came from in the first place.

Giant snakes threaten ecosystems

Introduced giant constrictor snakes pose major risks to ecosystems in the United States. Already in South Florida, breeding populations of boa constrictors and Burmese pythons have become established and appear to be spreading. Other constrictor snakes caught in the wild include anacondas and other python species. These non-native snakes are likely to thrive in suitable environments because they mature early, produce many young, travel long distances, and can eat native birds and mammals. Adequate control tools have not been established, although several are being tested.

Streamgages: the silent superhero

Whether you drink water from your tap, use electricity or canoe down your local river, chances are, you benefit from USGS streamgages. A streamgage measures the height and how much water is flowing in a river or stream. This information is used by drinking water suppliers, water treatment plant operators, engineers, wildlife managers, recreationalists and many others. There are over 7,500 streamgages in the United States that transmit real-time data by satellite every one to four hours. This streamflow information is available to everyone for free online. The amount of water in rivers or streams is not constant, and knowing how much water is available is critical to those who use and manage the water.

Why celebrate GIS Day on Nov. 18?

Scientists find geographic information systems (GIS) indispensable. These systems are used to store, view and analyze information, especially maps. They can contain data about human populations, storm damage, migratory bird routes and the location of crops. Geographers at the USGS National Wetlands Research Center measure coastal land loss along the Gulf Coast by combining information from aerial photography, satellite images, radar and elevation data into GIS. Using GIS, they can accurately map the 1900 square miles of coastal lands that Louisiana has lost since the 1930s. These systems are especially important after events like Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which together caused the loss of 217 square miles. Scientists also use GIS to forecast what land loss may occur in the future, which is critical information for restoration projects that save wetlands.

Source: USGS. For more information, visit www.usgs.gov.

Carbon storage? Not under my house!

AP

View of the area of Barendrecht near the filling station where plans for underground storage of CO2 in Barendrecht, Netherlands, Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009.

By AOIFE WHITE
AP BUSINESS WRITER

BARENDRECHT, Netherlands (AP)—The people of this small Dutch town are not against pumping tons of carbon dioxide into the ground to fight global warming.

They just wish it wasn't right beneath their houses. "Who wants to live in Barendrecht if one of these CO2 things is built?" said retiree Marianne van Heugten.

The carbon dioxide storage experiment by Royal Dutch Shell and the Dutch government is only one of a dozen such projects across Europe to test a technology that could potentially slash emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide into the atmosphere by storing it underground.

That would allow countries that have lots of coal, such as China and the United States, to cut emissions while using the cheap but polluting fossil fuel. Carbon dioxide from the burning of such fuels is considered the chief cause of global warming.

But questions remain about the technology and its costs and risks even as the EU prepares to spend billions on it.

If it works, the technology would buy the world time in the fight againt global warming by reducing emissions until cleaner energy sources can be developed—and help the EU keep big promises. Three weeks before global talks on a new climate change pact in Copenhagen, the EU says it is ready to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 95 percent by 2050. The EU thinks carbon storage could shave up to 10 percent off global emissions by 2030 and 20 percent by 2050.

The European Union has pledged some €1.05 billion in initial financing and will raise extra funding—likely some €4.5 billion—from selling permits to emit greenhouse gases under a cap-and-trade system where companies need to pay to pollute more.

It is also calling for all new coal-fired power stations built after 2020 to be capable of capturing carbon—even if the technology isn't ready to be rolled out by then.

The Dutch government must decide whether to overrule Barendrecht residents objections or push forward with the unknown risks of storage under one of the most densely populated parts of Europe. Most current storage sites are in isolated areas.

The project would pump 10 million metric tons of carbon dioxide starting from 2011 into two depleted gas fields 2 kilometers (more than a mile) under the town. The gas fields are considered by some a safer choice than current experiments under the the North Sea and the Sahara Desert where a water-bearing rock layer, or aquifer, is being used.

It's only a trial; Shell says the Netherlands might need to store 30 million metric tons a year by 2025 and the entire country could potentially store 1 billion metric tons.

Some 43,000 people live in Barendrecht, a suburb 18 kilometers (12 miles) from Rotterdam and its port, Europe's busiest. Real estate agent Frits Markus says worries about the project could affect the average €280,000 house price. People "will be scared that CO2 will be stored under where they live, they will feel their houses will lose value, and will have trouble selling them."

US agency study finds toxic chemicals in fish

WASHINGTON (AP)—Nearly half of U.S. lakes and reservoirs contain fish with potentially harmful levels of the toxic metal mercury, according to a federal study released Tuesday.

The Environmental Protection Agency found mercury—a pollutant primarily released from coal-fired power plants—and polychlorinated biphenyls in all fish samples it collected from 500 lakes and reservoirs from 2000-2003. At 49 percent of those lakes and reservoirs, mercury concentrations exceeded levels that the EPA says are safe for people eating average amounts of fish.

Mercury consumed by eating fish can damage the nervous system and cause learning disabilities in developing fetuses and young children.

Fewer lakes and reservoirs—17 percent—had fish containing polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, above recommended levels. PCBs were widely used as coolants and lubricants until they were banned in the late 1970s, but because they last in the environment for long periods of time, they can still be found in fish. PCBs have been linked to cancer and other health effects.

The study is the latest to highlight how widespread mercury pollution has become.

In August, the U.S. Geological Survey released a study of fish contamination based on a a survey of 300 streams nationwide. That research found mercury in all fish sampled, but only about a quarter of the fish had mercury levels exceeding EPA levels.

The EPA said Tuesday its findings underscore the need to further reduce mercury pollution and make sure that fish consumption advisories are followed.

Earlier this year, the Obama administration said it would begin crafting new regulations to control mercury emissions from power plants after a federal appeals court threw out plans drafted by the Bush administration and favored by industry.

The EPA also has proposed a new regulation to clamp down on emissions of mercury from cement plants.

Life & Style

Intrepid Maine troop greeters age along with wars

BANGOR, Maine (AP)—Jerry Mundy rarely misses an opportunity to extend his hand and offer thanks to young soldiers and Marines returning home, or departing for the war zone, during their brief layovers at the nation's easternmost major airport, a refueling hub for military transports.

Even when jolted out of bed in the middle of the night, Mundy and other volunteers have answered the call to greet each and every flight since the war in Iraq in 2003. They never figured troops would still be streaming through Bangor International Airport six years later.

"I'd give it up tomorrow if I could, but I won't give up until they're done—or I'm done—whichever comes first," the 74-year-old retired Marine said.

Mundy is one of three senior citizens showcased in a documentary about Maine's troop greeters that will be shown for a national audience for the first time on PBS on Veterans Day.

Filmmakers Aron Gaudet and Gita Pullapilly got the idea for "The Way We Get By" after accompanying Gaudet's mother to greet soldiers at 2 a.m. in December 2004.

Among the greeters was World War II veteran Bill Knight, who was gripping hands despite getting a cancer diagnosis earlier that same day. They soon learned that Knight wasn't the exception. Others were equally determined to make sure that all military personnel received a proper reception.

AP

A 'welcome home' and a handshake are what troops passing through Bangor, Maine have been receiving and the first person that they get it from is Bill Knight such as here, Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2009.

It turns out the group had found meaning and inspiration through the simple act of kindness to strangers, young men and women serving their country, Gaudet said.

Gaudet and Pullapilly, who were living in Grand Rapids, Mich., at the time, naively thought they'd work on their first documentary for a year, then the troops would come home, just like the first Gulf War. Instead, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan dragged on, and so did their filming, which continued for more than three years.

Along the way, their documentary became as much a story about aging in America as it was about troop greeters as the filmmakers documented Knight getting treatment for prostate cancer, Mundy dealing with heart problems and Joan Gaudet, Aron's mother, dealing with the deployment of two grandchildren.

Knight, 87, of Bangor, said showing gratitude to military personnel gives him purpose.

"They're not letting me down, and I'm not going to let them down," said Knight, who served in North Africa in World War II. "I figure if I don't show up, then I'm letting them down."

The greeters get plenty of practice: Planes carrying troops make regular stops in Bangor to meet customs obligations, refuel and change crews for continuing flights.

On Tuesday, Knight and Mundy were among 30 greeters who let out a whoop and clapped as 298 soldiers from the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Calvary Division, arrived for a refueling layover before the final leg of their flight home to Fort Hood, Texas.

The men and women in camouflage smiled and shook hands as they ran a gauntlet of greeters, then spilled through the airport terminal to take advantage of donated cell phones to called loved ones. Many of them headed straight outside for a smoke. Others fired up iPods or laptops.

"We all really appreciate what these people do. Coming off a 12-month deployment, this is a real morale booster to the soldiers to have someone say thank you," said 1st Sgt. Michael Davenport of Abington, Va., whose soldiers had been on the move without sleep for the past 72 hours.

Other places with troop-greeting programs include Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport in Texas and Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta. But Bangor's may be the longest-running. All told, Bangor has greeted more than 4,000 flights and more than 900,000 soldiers.

Gaudet and Pullapilly collected more than 300 hours of video before the editing process began. They got a confidence boost when the rough cut played at Maine's Camden International Film Festival.

"We were just like, 'Oh my God. Is this going to play well? Is it going to be awful?' Then it starts and people are laughing. We hear people are crying. The three subjects were seeing it with an audience for the first time. Then it's over and there's a standing ovation," Aron Gaudet said.

Recently, they had showings at Walter Reed Medical Center and at the U.S. Capitol. But Wednesday's showing on PBS marks the first time the documentary will reach a national audience.

"For us Veterans Day is the perfect day for it to be on national television," Gaudet said. "We'd always talk about how every day is Veterans Day in the Bangor International Airport."

Yellowstone bison could go to Turner's Mont. ranch

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP)—Dozens of wild bison from Yellowstone National Park would be relocated to a Montana ranch owned by billionaire Ted Turner, under a recommendation made by state and federal officials Tuesday.

The animals were spared from a slaughter program intended to protect Montana's cattle industry from a disease carried by many bison. The plan was to use those animals—considered disease-free—to repopulate public and tribal lands across the West with free-roaming bison.

But after other offers to take the animals fell through or were judged insufficient, state and federal officials said Tuesday that Turner's private ranch was the best option.

A smaller group of eight to 14 bison would go to Guernsey State Park in Wyoming.

Turner already owns about 50,000 bison, most of them domesticated, and his restaurant chain Ted's Montana Grill serves buffalo burgers.

Some conservationists and at least one federal agency oppose the plan to supplement Turner's herd with Yellowstone's genetically pure bison. It still needs approval from the director of Montana's wildlife agency.

"Essentially you're privatizing public wildlife," said Ben Lamb, conservation director for the Montana Wildlife Federation. "That's a very bad precedent to set."

A U.S. Department of Agriculture veterinarian also criticized the move, saying it went against the original intent of the bison relocation program launched in 2005.

Turner Enterprises general manager Russell Miller said Tuesday that the Yellowstone bison would not be harvested for their meat. However, their offspring could be sold as seed stock for new herds or bred with other Turner-owned bison to improve their genetics.

"The real value of these animals is more inherent—it's the genetics," he said.

Under the recommendation made Tuesday by officials from six government agencies, an estimated 75 to 80 bison would be moved in the next several months to Turner's 113,000-acre Flying D Ranch. They would be kept on a 12,000-acre parcel and separated from other animals.

The herd would be expected to grow to about 300 animals over the next several years. Miller said roughly 150 bison would be returned to Montana's Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department after a five-year study expired.

Lawyer: Letterman suspect just shopping screenplay

NEW YORK (AP)—David Letterman was on the receiving end of a sales pitch, not a shakedown, a defense lawyer said Tuesday as he argued that a TV producer accused of extorting the comic was simply peddling a screenplay.

Robert J. "Joe" Halderman's lawyer asked a judge to toss the attempted first-degree grand larceny case, which spurred Letterman to acknowledge his office dalliances in a startling on-air monologue last month. Attorney Gerald Shargel said the $2 million exchange was business, not blackmail. "This was a commercial transaction. Nothing more," he said.

The first outlines of Halderman's defense spotlighted Letterman's behavior, drawing a sharp response from the "Late Show" host's camp. A lawyer for Letterman said the comic was prepared to testify if the case went to trial.

"It's classic blackmail, no matter how Mr. Halderman's lawyer wants to dress it up," Letterman attorney Daniel J. Horwitz said outside court.

In papers filed Tuesday, Shargel argued that the indictment against Halderman should be dismissed because his conduct wasn't a crime, among other claims. Assistant District Attorney Judy Salwen said she was confident a judge would find the indictment was on solid legal ground.

State Supreme Court Justice Charles Solomon is expected to rule in January.

AP

Robert "Joe" Halderman enters Manhattan criminal court with his attorney Gerald Shargel, right, Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2009, in New York.

Halderman acknowledges giving Letterman's driver a package on Sept. 9 that included the supposed screenplay "treatment"—or synopsis—and some "source material."

Authorities say the materials included a letter saying Halderman needed to make "a large chunk of money" and a claim that the screenplay would depict how Letterman's world would "collapse around him" when information about his private life was disclosed. Photos, personal correspondence and portions of a diary also were enclosed, authorities said.

The diary entries were allegedly written by Halderman's former girlfriend and outlined her affair with Letterman.

Authorities then taped two conversations between Letterman's lawyer and Halderman—including an exchange in which the lawyer gave Halderman a phony $2 million check after he demanded it as hush money, the Manhattan district attorney's office said. Halderman was arrested after depositing it.

The day before prosecutors unveiled the case last month, Letterman divulged it on his show, acknowledging he had had sex with women who worked for him.

AP

This undated photo released by Latina magazine shows Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor on the cover of the December-January double issue of Latina.

Sotomayor poses in court for Latina magazine cover

By JESSE WASHINGTON
AP NATIONAL WRITER

Sonia Sotomayor heeded White House advice to paint her fingernails a neutral shade during her Supreme Court confirmation process—up to a point.

At a White House reception after her confirmation, Sotomayor showed her freshly painted red nails to President Barack Obama, along with her red-and-black semi-hoop earrings, according to an article in the new issue of Latina magazine to be released Nov. 17. Obama joked that Sotomayor had been briefed on proper nail color and earring size.

"Mr. President, you have no idea what you've unleashed," Sotomayor replied, according to the article by her close friend Sandra Guzman, who was at the event.

While Obama was still deciding whom to nominate, Sotomayor wondered if the job was right for her. Just three weeks before the president announced his choice, Sotomayor confided to a friend that she was leery of losing privacy and time with her mother and wanted to withdraw her name from consideration.

"This is not about you," attorney Lee Llambelis said she told Sotomayor. "It's about the little girls and boys, brown and black, who live in the projects and poor communities around our nation, who can dream bigger if you are in the Supreme Court."

Sotomayor has granted few, if any, sit-down interviews since becoming the first Hispanic justice on the Supreme Court. She did not give a formal interview to Guzman, the former editor-in-chief of Latina, but agreed to be photographed inside the Supreme Court building.

The article details Sotomayor's personal life, including a 1983 divorce from her high school sweetheart, Kevin Noonan; a broken engagement to a Bronx contractor, Peter White, in 2000; and her most recent relationship, "a friend with no strings attached."

Guzman said she once sought advice on her own marital problems from Sotomayor, who told her, "To find happiness in love... we have to make up our own rules."

Rihanna talks about breaking down and her new CD

Singer Rihanna poses for a portrait in New York Monday, Nov. 9, 2009.

AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Rihanna says recording songs on her new album was such an emotional experience that she sometimes had to leave the studio to prevent herself from breaking down.

"I walked out the studio a few times just trying not to be in tears," she said Monday about recording her fourth studio album, "Rated R," to be released on Nov. 23.

"It was about me, and so much so that songs got really personal to the point where it took three months for me to start recording it because it was too deep for me to even listen to," she said.

The CD comes nine months after the 21-year-old singing sensation was attacked by ex-boyfriend Chris Brown. Rihanna said recording helped ease the pain—giving her an outlet to express how she truly felt.

"I got to vent because I didn't really talk a lot. I didn't talk to a lot of people about anything I was feeling. I just did it on the record," she said.

Brown was arrested Feb. 8. He was accused of beating Rihanna after they attended a pre-Grammy party. Brown later pleaded guilty to felony assault and was sentenced to five years' probation, six months of community labor and a year of domestic violence counseling.

Following the attack, Rihanna said she was sick of sitting at home and decided to head to the studio.

"I was tired of just being in the house and I just felt like I was wasting so much time and just being lackadaisical, so I just wanted to work again and we started recording," she said.

Rihanna, who won a Grammy for the megahit "Umbrella," says the new album's sound is "darker" than her previous ones because it reflects her turbulent year.

"The recording experience was different because it was from a completely new mind space, from a different perspective. Usually I was thinking of fun stories, things to talk about, different topics that might be cool, but this time is really about my life," she said.

She also said she's excited for fans to hear a song called "Stupid In Love."

"You're blinded by love, love is blind and sometimes you can't see it coming and it's just coming to the realization of the state of a relationship and just saying, 'This is not what I like. It doesn't make me happy,'" she said.

Rihanna said the album is a reflection of Rihanna the woman—not the image we've come to know.

"I feel like my fans, they knew me, they knew what I looked like, but they didn't really know what my personality was. They didn't really know how I think or what I stand for. They didn't really know much about me as a person. They just knew my image and the idea of me," she said.

"But I wanted to give them more of who I really was because I feel like that was a connection I was missing."

Rihanna credits this album with helping her look forward instead of dwelling in past.

"Venting is a part of moving on, like you have to get it out no matter what, and this album for me helped me do that—being in the studio, writing, working with producers and songwriters, making music," she said. "It made it even more special that it came from my heart and my real... my feelings, the exact way I felt."

Judge: Joe Jackson can't challenge will executors

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's father does not stand to inherit any of his son's assets and cannot challenge the appointment of the executors chosen by the singer to handle his will, a judge said Tuesday.

Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff said Joe Jackson was not named in the will but could pursue a motion to receive a family allowance from the estate because he claimed his son had been supporting him.

Joe Jackson and his son had an often-strained relationship, and Michael Jackson said at one point that he would get physically sick—as a child and as an adult—at the sight of his father.

Beckloff ended a contentious all-day hearing by telling Joe Jackson's lawyer, Brian Oxman, that his client had no standing to prolong the legal fray over Jackson's estate and would gain nothing from doing so.

"I don't think he gets to step into this and create further litigation," the judge declared. "Joe Jackson takes none of this estate. This is a decision his son made."

In another development, the court released an accounting that the estate had paid nearly $1 million in expenses for the private family funeral held at Forest Lawn Memorial Park.

Some of the expenses were $11,716 for invitations and programs; $35,000 for burial garments; $30,000 for cars and security; and $15,000 to a designer.

"I would have done it less expensively. But it was Michael Jackson, who was larger than life," Howard Weitzman, an attorney for the estate administrators, said outside court. "There's no reason he should not have a funeral that's larger than life."

Earlier in Tuesday's hearing, Michael Jackson's mother withdrew her objections to the appointment of two longtime Jackson associates as executors of his will.

The surprise announcement came from Katherine Jackson's new probate attorney Adam Streisand, who said his client felt it was time for the legal battle to end over the appointment of attorney John Branca and music executive John McClain.

Katherine Jackson now believes their appointment, as spelled out in her son's will, can "enhance the legacy of Michael Jackson in the best interest of his children," Streisand said.

It was Streisand's first major move in the case since he was chosen last month by Katherine Jackson to replace the team that had represented her since her son's death in June.

Beckloff later made the formal appointment of the executors after deciding Jackson's father could not challenge the move. Oxman threatened to appeal, which could interfere further with the appointments.

Streisand said Katherine Jackson decided she wanted to let the executors go about earning money for the estate rather than incurring more legal fees.

Oxman, however, accused her of reneging on an agreement with her family to challenge the executors and called the announcement in court "one of the most despicable things I have ever seen."

He accused Katherine Jackson of making a secret deal with the executors, a statement vehemently denied by Streisand and Weitzman.

Streisand said no one but he and Mrs. Jackson knew of her decision until he stood in court and announced it.

Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the late

EDGAR CELADA JASTILLANA

March 29, 1965 - October 10, 2009

Wish to extend our deepest sincere appreciation for all the kindness and words of comfort that you all have given us on the loss of our beloved Edgar. Your precious prayers, love, support, and condolences has helped us during our most difficult times and has also given us the courage to accept that although, our beloved Edgar has gone from our lives and into his final resting place, he will always live among us in our hearts. Your presence and sacrifices during this difficult time is greatly appreciated.

May God bless you all.

Thank You, Salamat Po.

Jastillana Family

‘Twilight’ among People’s Choice Awards nominees

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nominees for the People’s Choice Awards are out, and the people choose vampires.

“Twilight” and “True Blood” were among the top nominees announced Tuesday. Fans cast more than 18 million votes online to select the nominee slate and will also choose the winners in 35 categories.

“Twilight” is up for favorite movie, franchise and on-screen team for its trio of stars: Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner. Stewart and Pattinson were also nominated individually for favorite movie actress and actor, and Lautner is up for breakout movie actor.

“True Blood” was nominated for favorite TV obsession and sci-fi/fantasy TV show, plus star Anna Paquin earned a nod for TV drama actress. “The Vampire Diaries” was also a double nominee, up for favorite sci-fi/fantasy show and new TV drama.

Fans can vote for their favorites online at http://www.peopleschoice.com .

Queen Latifah is set to host the People’s Choice Awards at the Nokia Theatre. The ceremony will be broadcast live on CBS on Jan. 6, 2010.

The complete list of nominees:

TV drama: “CSI: Crime Scene Investigation,” “Grey’s Anatomy,” “House,” “Lost,” “NCIS.”

TV comedy: “Desperate Housewives,” “How I Met Your Mother,” “The Big Bang Theory,” “The Office,” “Two and a Half Men.”

TV drama Actor: Hugh Laurie, Kiefer Sutherland, Mark Harmon, Matthew Fox, Patrick Dempsey.

TV drama Actress: Anna Paquin, Blake Lively, Jennifer Love Hewitt, Katherine Heigl, Mariska Hargitay.

TV comedy Actor: Alex Baldwin, Charlie Sheen, Jim Parsons, Neil Patrick Harris, Steve Carell.

TV comedy Actress: Alyson Hannigan, America Ferrera, Amy Poehler, Eva Longoria Parker, Tina Fey.

TV obsession: “Dexter,” “Gossip Girl,” “The Hills,” “The Secret Life of the American Teenager,” “True Blood.”

TV talk show: “Chelsea Lately,” “Live with Regis & Kelly,” “The Ellen DeGeneres Show,” “The Oprah Winfrey Show,” “The Tyra Banks Show.”

TV sci-fi/fantasy: “Heroes,” “Lost,” “Supernatural,” “The Vampire Diaries,” “True Blood.”

TV competition show: “American Idol,” “Dancing With the Stars,” “Project Runway,” “So You Think You Can Dance,” “Survivor: Samoa.”

Animal show: “Animal Cops,” “DogTown,” “Dog Whisperer,” “It’s Me or the Dog,” “Rescue Ink.”

New TV drama: “Eastwick,” “FlashForward,” “Melrose Place,” “Mercy,” “The Forgotten,” “The Good Wife,” “The Vampire Diaries,” “Three Rivers,” “NCIS: Los Angeles,” “V.”

New TV comedy: “Accidentally on Purpose,” “Brothers,” “Community,” “Cougar Town,” “Glee,” “Hank,” “The Cleveland Show,” “The Middle,” “Modern Family.”

Movie actor: Brad Pitt, Hugh Jackman, Johnny Depp, Robert Pattinson, Ryan Reynolds.

Movie actress: Anna Hathaway, Drew Barrymore, Jennifer Aniston, Kristen Stewart, Sandra Bullock.

Action star: Christian Bale, Gerard Butler, Hugh Jackman, Shia LaBeouf, Vin Diesel.

Comedic star: Adam Sandler, Ben Stiller, Jim Carrey, Ryan Reynolds, Vince Vaughn.

Breakout movie actress: Anna Kendrick, Emily Osment, Ginnifer Goodwin, Miley Cyrus, Zoe Saldana.

Breakout movie actor: Chris Pine, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Sam Worthington, Taylor Lautner, Zachary Quinto.

On-screen team: Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint and Emma Watson, “Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince”; Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds, “The Proposal”; Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart and Taylor Lautner, “The Twilight Saga”; Shia LaBeouf and Megan Fox, “Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen”; Hugh Jackman, Liev Schreiber, Ryan Reynolds, will.i.am, Dominic Monaghan and Daniel Henney, “X-Men Origins: Wolverine.”

Family movie: “Hannah Montana: The Movie,” “Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs,” “Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian,” “Up,” “Where the Wild Things Are.”

Independent movie: “(500) Days of Summer,” “District 9,” “Inglourious Basterds,” “Paranormal Activity,” “Tyler Perry’s Madea Goes to Jail.”

Franchise: “Harry Potter,” “Star Trek,” “The Twilight Saga,” “Transformers,” “X-Men.”

Comedy movie: “17 Again,” “Bride Wars,” “He’s Just Not That Into You,” “The Hangover,” “The Proposal.”

Favorite movie: “Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince,” “Star Trek,” “The Hangover,” “The Proposal,” “Twilight.”

Male artist: Eminem, Jason Mraz, John Mayer, Keith Urban, Tim McGraw.

Female artist: Beyonce, Britney Spears, Carrie Underwood, Pink, Taylor Swift.

Country artist: Brad Paisley, Carrie Underwood, Keith Urban, Rascal Flatts, Taylor Swift.

Breakout Music Artist: Adam Lambert, Demi Lovato, Kris Allen, Lady Gaga, Susan Boyle.

Hip-hop artist: Eminem, Flo Rida, Jay-Z, Lil’ Wayne, T.I.

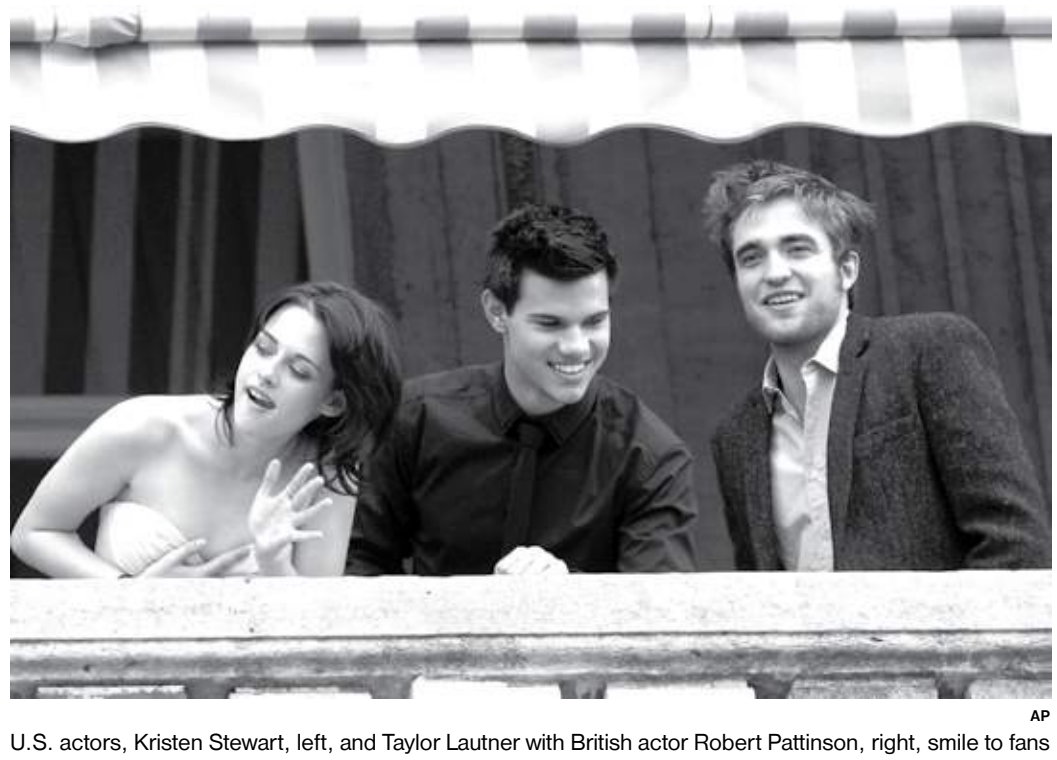
Rock band: Daughtry, Green Day, Kings of Leon, Muse, Paramore.

Music collaboration: Cobra Starship & Leighton Meester, “Good Girls Go Bad”; Jason Mraz & Colbie Caillat, “Lucky”; Jay-Z, Rihanna & Kanye West, “Run This Town”; T.I. & Rihanna, “Live Your Life”; The Lonely Island & T-Pain, “I’m on a Boat.”

R&B artist: Alicia Keys, Beyonce, Jennifer Hudson, Mariah Carey, Usher.

Pop artist: Britney Spears, Katy Perry, Lady Gaga, Taylor Swift, the Black Eyed Peas.

Web celeb: Andy Samberg, Ashton Kutcher, Miley Cyrus, P. Diddy, Will Ferrell.



AP

U.S. actors, Kristen Stewart, left, and Taylor Lautner with British actor Robert Pattinson, right, smile to fans as they promote their film “The Twilight Saga: New Moon”, in Paris, Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2009.

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don’t just go to the movies, GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000

POWER 99 FM SAIPAN, CNMI

$5.50 Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
$5.50 All Day Admission For Seniors
$4.50 All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
$5.50 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
$5.50 Military with Valid I.D.

TUESDAY BARGAIN $5.50 ALL SHOWS ALL DAY/NIGHT (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS AND RESTRICTED FEATURES)

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com

dts DOLBY DIGITAL STADIUM SEATING WITH HIGH-BACK LOVESEATS

For Friday, November 6th through Thursday, November 12th
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

★ ★ ★ NOW SHOWING ★ ★ ★

A Christmas Carol

Friday		4:25	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:00	

Jim Carrey, Robin Wright Penn
Adventure, Fantasy • Rated PG

Synopsis

Ebenezer Scrooge begins the Christmas holiday with his usual miserly contempt, barking at his faithful clerk and his cheery nephew. But when the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come take him on an eye-opening journey revealing truths Old Scrooge is reluctant to face, he must open his heart to undo years of ill will before it’s too late.

The Men Who Stare at Goats

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:20	7:20	9:55
Sunday	1:30	4:20	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:20	

George Clooney, Jeff Bridges
Thriller, Adaptation • Rated R

The Fourth Kind

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:05	7:10	9:50
Sunday	1:10	4:05	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:10	

Milla Jovovich, Will Patton
Thriller • Rated PG 13

The Box

Friday		4:10	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:10	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:10	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:05	

Cameron Diaz, James Marsden
Thriller, Horror • Rated PG 13

Kimmy Dora

Friday		4:00	7:30	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:00	7:30	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:00	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:30	

Eugene Domingo, Dingdong Dantes
Musical, Documentary • Rated NR

★ ★ ★

Michael Jackson’s This Is It

Friday		4:30	7:15	9:45
Saturday	1:00	4:30	7:15	9:45
Sunday	1:00	4:30	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:15	

Michael Jackson
Musical, Documentary • Rated PG

Synopsis

A rare glimpse into the final days of Michael Jackson, the documentary is compiled from an estimated 80 hours of rehearsal and behind-the-scenes footage of the legendary entertainer preparing for his 50 sold-out shows at London's O2 Arena that were scheduled to commence in July 2009 before his untimely death in June at age 50. Interviews with collaborators and close friends of the late performer are also featured.

Astro Boy

Friday		4:15		
Saturday	1:15	4:15		
Sunday	1:15	4:15		
Mon thru Thurs		4:15		

Freddie Highmore, Nicolas Cage
Action, Comedy • Rated PG

Vampire’s Assistant

Friday			7:25	10:00
Saturday			7:25	10:00
Sunday			7:25	
Mon thru Thurs			7:25	

John C. Reilly, Chris Mssoglia
Adventure, Fantasy, Children • Rated PG 13

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

www.gohollywood.com

Rapper violates order, faces more prison time

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—A Baton Rouge rapper who failed to follow a judge’s instructions in a drug case will now have to serve about two years in prison instead of one.

Torrence “Lil Boosie” Hatch pleaded guilty in September to a third-offense marijuana possession charge, and state District Judge Chip Moore ordered the 26-year-old to be electronically monitored and to clear his concert dates with the court while awaiting sentencing.

Under a plea deal, Moore had been expected to sentence Hatch to 10 years in prison with all but the first two years suspended, meaning the rapper would likely serve about a year. But because Hatch violated portions of Moore’s post-plea instructions, the judge sentenced him Monday to 10 years with all but the first four years suspended.

“The max he would do is two years,” East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney Hillar Moore III said after court.

James Manasseh, one of Hatch’s attorneys, agreed with the district attorney’s calculation.

Manasseh said his client left home without court permission and his electronic monitoring device died several times because he didn’t charge it properly.

“They were not terribly severe violations,” he said. “He just made some bad decisions on his part and the judge felt he had to send him a little bit of a message.”

Moore told Hatch, “I really hope that you get it straight.”

“You have the ability to change people’s lives for the better, including your own,” the judge said.

Semifinal slate sealed on 'Dancing With the Stars'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—He shed tears on the show and once fought for his spot with a dance-off, but Aaron Carter has performed his last dance on "Dancing With the Stars."

The 21-year-old singer and his professional partner, Karina Smirnoff, were eliminated from the hit ABC show Tuesday.

Carter cried early in the competition after harsh remarks from the judges. Last week, he beat out former football star Michael Irvin in a dance-off to keep his spot on the show. He came into Tuesday's episode tied for last place with fellow dancer Donny Osmond, but viewer votes failed to keep the younger entertainer afloat.

Judges' scores are combined with viewer votes to determine which contestant is eliminated each week.

Carter said he learned a lot during his eight weeks on the program.

"I've grown so much from your compliments and your criticism," he said, "so I've got to say thank you."

Head judge Len Goodman praised the young singer for his dedication.

"You're an inspiration to all young people that anything is possible," Goodman said. "If you were my son, I would be so proud of you."

Tuesday's episode also featured performances by Michael Buble, who sang his new single, and Susan Boyle, who performed what has become her signature song, "I Dreamed a Dream."

"Dancing" alumnae Kenny Mayne and Jerry Rice returned to the show with "DanceCenter," a play on ESPN's SportsCenter in which the sports anchor and former football star riff on the remaining contestants vying for the show's mirrorball trophy.

The semifinal round begins on Monday. Besides Osmond, remaining competitors include reality star Kelly Osbourne, singer Mya and model Joanna Krupa.

Swift wins 2nd straight BMI award for top song

AP

Recording artist Taylor Swift attends the 57th Annual BMI Country Awards in Nashville, Tenn. Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2009.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Taylor Swift started what could be an interesting week with her second straight song of the year award at the BMI Country Awards on a night when Kris Kristofferson was honored as an icon.

Swift won for her song "Love Story" on Tuesday, the night before she contends for entertainer of the year at the Country Music Association Awards. Bobby Pinson won songwriter of the year and Sony/ATV Music was named publisher of the year.

BMI also honored Brooks & Dunn with the president's award.

Willie Nelson, Patty Griffin and Vince Gill paid tribute to Kristofferson with performances.

A reserved Kristofferson, writer of such classics as "Me and Bobby McGee" and "Sunday Mornin' Come Down," admitted to being overwhelmed by the attention.

Jennifer Lopez granted temporary restraining order

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A California judge granted a temporary restraining order Tuesday barring Jennifer Lopez's first husband and his manager from distributing 11 hours of home video footage the singer-actress claims includes sexual situations.

Lopez claims ex-husband Ojani Noa is exploiting her private life with the footage and the proposed film, "The J.Lo and Ojani Noa Story."

The order by Superior Court Judge James C. Chalfant also applies to Ed Meyer, who is Noa's manager.

Lopez and Noa wed in 1997, but the marriage lasted just 11 months.

In 2007, she won $545,000 in damages and attorney fees in another lawsuit that blocked Noa from publishing a ghostwritten tell-all book. Lopez claimed Noa demanded $5 million to keep from publishing the book.

Lopez believes the video footage and proposed film are exploitive and offensive and would damage her career and reputation.

Noa disputed the claim.

"It's a movie about my life," he said outside court. "They're trying to ruin my life again ... She don't want me to succeed and that's the problem."

Noa, who represented himself, claimed the footage included nothing sexual and is used to develop characters.

Meyer's attorney, Frank Sanes Jr., said the criticism is undeserved.

"Noa has an interesting story that should be told. He has nothing but respect for Jennifer," Sanes said. "The talk about sex tapes is a smoke screen."

Omarosa set to star in a reality show on TV 1

NEW YORK (AP)—Donald Trump says he's partnering with the TV One network on a reality dating series starring TV diva Omarosa.

Having proven herself as a fiery contender on Trump's "The Apprentice," she now will be the one choosing from contenders who compete to marry her on "Omarosa's Ultimate Merger."

Created by Trump Productions, the eight-episode show will follow Omarosa as she puts a dozen rival bachelors through challenges.

The series is scheduled to premiere in the spring on TV One, a basic cable network targeting black viewers.

AP

This photo released by TV One shows reality star Omarosa. Donald Trump says he's partnering with the TV One network on a reality series starring TV diva Omarosa.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Jackson private funeral costs: roughly $1 million

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's private family funeral was fit for a king and had a price tag to match: roughly $1 million. Court documents released Tuesday showed that his mother, his brother, Randy, and sister, Janet, were involved in the planning and mindful of the huge amount of media attention that would be lavished on the Sept. 3 funeral. Lawyers for Jackson's mother applied to the estate's administrators and were granted $1 million to pay for costs that included burial, flowers, cars, security and a post-funeral dinner. The private ceremony for the King of Pop was held at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, Calif. weeks after a public tribute to the singer at Staples Center.

Reggaeton singer Daddy Yankee taking music classes

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Reggaeton singer Daddy Yankee has told a Mexican newspaper that he's taking music classes—17 years after he started his career. The Puerto Rican star says he has been taking classes on keyboards and expects to graduate in another year and a half. Daddy Yankee tells the newspaper El Universal in a story published Tuesday that he once started music study but dropped it. He says he started up again a few years ago. He says the formal studies have influenced his performances. "Before, I had to hum the melody to my producers; now I can play it on the keyboard and I feel comfortable, accomplished," he says. The artist's real name is Ramon Ayala and he is best known for his song "Gasolina."

'V' caps a strong development season for ABC

NEW YORK (AP)—The strong premiere of ABC's science fiction series "V" is capping an unusually strong development season for the network. More than 14 million people saw opening week of the Earth-invaders series. The Nielsen Co. says it was the most-watched scripted show among young viewers all week and second only to the "NCIS: Los Angeles" spinoff as the best new series of the season. Three of ABC's new scripted series finished among the 32 most-watched prime-time shows last week. Besides "V," the others were "Modern Family" and "Flash Forward." CBS had two of its new series within the top 32, Nielsen said. By contrast, Fox's 'Bones" was its only scripted series—new or returning—in Nielsen's top 32. NBC had none at all. Diane Sawyer's interview with Rihanna on Friday gave "20/20" its biggest audience among viewers ages 18 to 34 in three years.

Art of medicine can require long hours and long waits

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: May I respond to your column regarding excessive waits in doctors' offices (Sept. 1)?

I am a board-certified interventional cardiologist who has been practicing for 30 years. I work 85 to 90 hours each week. As hard as we try, our office schedule often falls behind. Despite recommendations that acute problems go to the emergency room, unscheduled patients come to the office with chest pains, and they must be attended to. Even scheduled patients can develop complex medical issues that require extra, unplanned time to evaluate and treat.

Our patients with a history of heart disease do not mind waiting when the office runs behind because they receive the same specialized extra-care treatment when they need it. Delays that result from spending extra time evaluating and treating sick patients with complicated problems is not "unprofessional" behavior as "Larry W." implied. On the contrary, it relates to the art of medicine and caring for the well-being of each patient above all else.

And for the architect, I wonder when he last worked a 90-hour week, took seven or eight phone calls from his clients after midnight, and got up at 3 a.m. to do an emergency two-hour procedure before returning to his office at 8 in the morning bright-eyed, bushy-tailed and running on schedule the rest of the day?

DR. RON IN LAS VEGAS

DEAR DR. RON: I felt it was only fair to print your response to my follow-up column on "Sick of Waiting in Denver." That column elicited a mountain of letters, all of them offering reasonable explanations for the delays in medical offices. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Many factors cause doctors to run behind. Routine physicals can reveal life-threatening conditions that must be dealt with immediately.

Also, people do not reveal the true reason for their visit when they call, so they are not given the appropriate amount of time for the appointment. A teenager brought in for vomiting could have the stomach flu, onset diabetes or even be pregnant.

A colleague once had a woman complaining of abdominal pain who gave birth in the exam room. That definitely took more than 15 minutes!

M.D. IN WOODSTOCK, ILL.

DEAR ABBY: My husband is a thoracic surgeon who spends four days a week in the O.R. and one action-packed day seeing patients in his office in addition to his on-call schedules. When I ask my husband what held him up when he gets home late for dinner, his response is always the same: "I give each patient my undivided attention. I would never cut them off or hurry to see the next one until I know every concern was addressed." If these readers who complained about waiting have a doctor as kind and caring as my husband, their wait is worth every second.

MARRIED TO A WONDERFUL MAN

DEAR ABBY: Every single day, multiple patients wait until their appointment time is up to say, "There's just one more thing I was afraid to bring up ..." Then they tell me about their chest pain, depression or possible abuse. These are things I cannot and will not ignore. But it does mean the next patient will have to wait.

Some people behave as if they're going to a fast food drive-thru. And if things don't change, that is exactly the kind of care they'll end up getting.

DELMAR, N.Y., DOCTOR

DEAR ABBY: When your doctor has to deliver devastating news about your health and you have lots of questions, lots of tears and your mind is filled with terror, you'll appreciate the time being spent with you—which means someone else will have to wait.

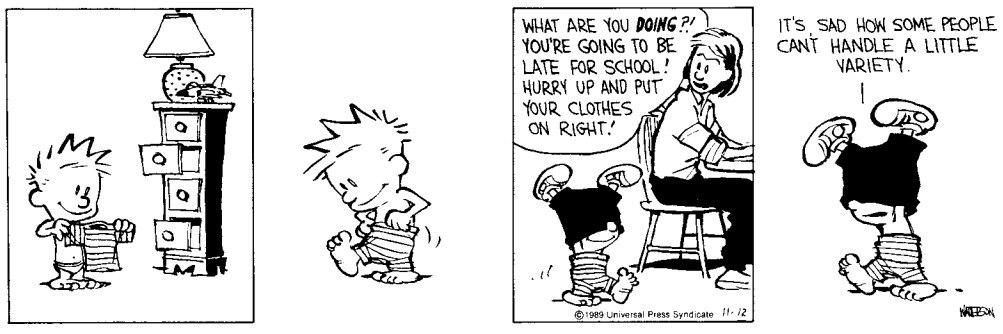
MEDICAL OFFICE MANAGER IN KINGSPORT, TENN.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE FOR SCHOOL! HURRY UP AND PUT YOUR CLOTHES ON RIGHT!
© 1989 Universal Press Syndicate 11-12
IT'S SAD HOW SOME PEOPLE CAN'T HANDLE A LITTLE VARIETY.
WATTERSON

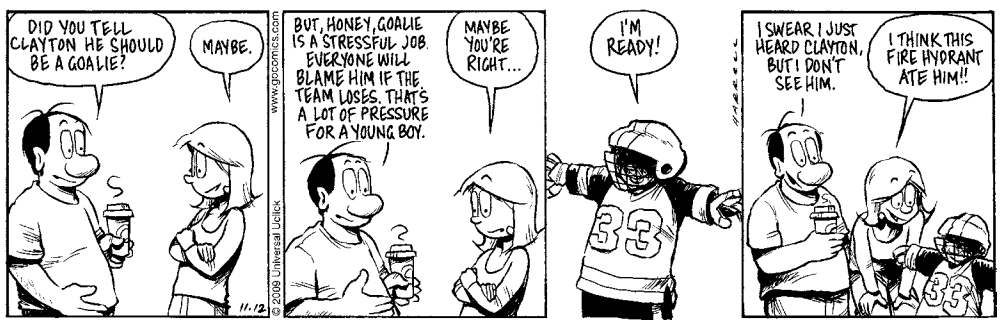
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN LIZ'S FACE WHEN I PLAYED HER MY SONG
© 2009 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
www.garfield.com
IT LOOKED LIKE THIS
I LOVE THAT FACE
YOU SEE IT ENOUGH
JIM DAVIS 11-12
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DID YOU TELL CLAYTON HE SHOULD BE A GOALIE?
MAYBE.
© 2009 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com
11-12
BUT, HONEY, GOALIE IS A STRESSFUL JOB. EVERYONE WILL BLAME HIM IF THE TEAM LOSES. THAT'S A LOT OF PRESSURE FOR A YOUNG BOY.
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT...
I'M READY!
33
I SWEAR I JUST HEARD CLAYTON, BUT I DON'T SEE HIM.
I THINK THIS FIRE HYDRANT ATE HIM!!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

OH, YOU WANT TO FIGHT ME?! HUH? WELL LET ME GIVE YOU A LITTLE WARNING.
© 2009 Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Uclick
11-12-09
FANG, TELL THIS CLOWN HOW MY FISTS ARE LIKE LIGHTNING.
Glenn McCoy
THAT'S TRUE. THE ODDS OF GETTING STRUCK BY ONE IS A MILLION TO ONE.
www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Hardly hirsute
5 Last few notes
9 Hairdo goo
12 Addict
13 Any time now
14 Raw rock
15 Farm animals
17 Playground game
18 River craft
19 Cow catcher?
21 "Heavens!"
22 On the qui vive
24 Wan
27 Fellow
28 Pull strings?
31 Red or Black
32 Commotion
33 Gridlock component
34 Jailer's janglers
36 Cardtable cry
37 Terrier type
38 Final approval
40 End of a Descartes quote
41 Expenditure
43 Comments to the audience
47 Monk's address
48 Measuring device
51 Buddy
52 Unpaid
53 Roll call reply
54 Wapiti
55 Solidifies
56 Poker variety

DOWN
1 Magnitude
2 Largest of the seven
3 Tax
4 Really handsome
5 Eliot-based musical
6 Yoko of music
7 Elmer, to Bugs
8 Bracelet location
9 Couldn't proceed
10 Historic periods
11 Toy block name
16 Firmament
20 Museum fill
22 Sound portion
23 Holyoke founder Mary
24 Request
25 Witness
26 Needle location?
27 Jokes
29 Aye undoer
30 Prior to
35 Droop
37 Margaret Chase and Anna Deavere
39 Vacillates
40 Donkey
41 "... so why not take all —?"
42 Caspian feeder
43 Puts two and two together
44 Regimen
45 Beige
46 Timetable, for short
49 Shock and —
50 On pension (Abbr.)

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	W	A	B	■	P	E	A	■	S	T	A	B
A	I	D	A	■	O	A	R	■	T	U	N	E
P	L	A	T	I	N	U	M	■	A	N	T	E
S	T	R	I	C	T	■	O	R	I	G	I	N
■	■	■	K	O	I	■	R	U	N	S	■	■
A	B	A	■	N	A	B	■	M	E	T	R	O
F	I	N	N	■	C	O	G	■	D	E	A	R
T	O	T	E	R	■	A	R	T	■	N	Y	C
■	■	I	G	O	R	■	A	S	S	■	■	■
I	N	M	A	T	E	■	N	A	T	U	R	E
R	I	O	T	■	H	Y	D	R	O	G	E	N
A	N	N	E	■	A	M	P	■	C	L	A	D
N	A	Y	S	■	B	A	A	■	K	I	D	S

Yesterday's answer 11-12

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11
12				■	13				■	14		
15				16					■	17		
18						■	■	19	20			
■	■	■	21		■	22	23				■	■
24	25	26		■	27			■	28		29	30
31			■	■	32			■	■	33		
34			35	■	36			■	37			
■	■	38		39			■	40		■	■	■
41	42				■	■	43			44	45	46
47			■	48	49	50						
51			■	52				■	53			
54			■	55				■	56			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Omarion, 25; Ryan Gosling, 29; Radha Mitchell, 36; Sammy Sosa, 41

Happy Birthday: You have to follow your own path. Change is good, so take every opportunity to experience new activities and events, especially if it will add to your wisdom, skills and goals. A hidden matter regarding someone you like will be revealed and can lead to an alteration in your lifestyle. Your numbers are 5, 11, 20, 26, 37, 40, 43

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Just because you are known for your ability to get things done doesn't mean you should let anyone take advantage of you. Do the things that will benefit you most. You have the upper hand this time, so act accordingly. It will set the stage for things to come. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You cannot put up with anyone trying to derail your position or your plans. Someone you have worked with in the past will stand up for you and your ability to do what's right. Don't let your emotions hold you back. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Any challenge should be met with open arms. Refuse to let someone negative ruin your train of thought. Someone who shows an interest in you will also inspire you to do well. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): A bad mood can ruin your plans and set you on a downward spiral. Social activity must be part of your day or you will miss meeting people and making new friends. Don't stick around anyone who is taking you for granted. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Find out what's really going on. Someone is not telling you the whole story. Without knowing the facts you cannot assess the situation. You will see things differently once you have distanced yourself from the source of the problem. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take everyone by surprise by doing something that they least expect. You will end up in a power position that can help you out professionally or personally. You don't need backup to be successful. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Consider what's important and what's not and you will have a much better view of your situation and what you must do to be successful. Things may be moving a little fast for you but that's no reason to stop in your tracks or shy away. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Your reputation counts for something and you may need to pull strings to ensure that everyone knows what you have to offer. Speak from the heart and you will stop any misconceptions. Avoid any form of overindulgence. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may want to take a break and let things ride for now. If you are too vocal about what you want to do or have others do, you will make enemies. Before you make a decision, rethink your strategy. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): There is plenty to gain by trying something new or diving into a venture that has potential.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Your ability to respond with something valuable to those offering you a proposition will lead to greater negotiating power and more cash. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Impulse purchases and people wanting to borrow will lead to stress. Talk to people who are money-wise and you will get a better understanding of how to make your money work for you. Quit bad habits. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You may want to pick a fight or blame someone for something that probably is just as much your fault. Look at the big picture and you will realize what you have to lose by being difficult. Now is not the time to take an emotional risk. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are clever and entertaining. You are attracted to the unusual and you crave knowledge and entertainment. You are unique and versatile.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6								7
				5				
1	4		2				9	6
			8		6	1		
	8						3	
		3	1		4			
4	2				7		5	9
				4				
5								1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

5	7	6	8	9	3	2	4	1
1	3	4	2	5	7	9	6	8
2	9	8	6	1	4	5	3	7
3	8	2	4	6	9	1	7	5
7	4	1	5	3	2	6	8	9
6	5	9	1	7	8	3	2	4
8	1	3	9	4	6	7	5	2
9	2	7	3	8	5	4	1	6
4	6	5	7	2	1	8	9	3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/11

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CLICKING 'SEND' ON E-MAIL **Solution: 7 letters**

I	(P)	O	I	N	T	S	D	E	H	S	I	N	I	F
N	R	(U)	E	N	T	E	R	O	X	O	B	T	U	O
S	O	C	(S)	O	C	L	V	D	N	O	P	S	E	R
T	C	I	P	(H)	O	E	C	O	N	T	A	C	T	W
R	E	N	T	N	R	C	I	T	A	M	O	T	U	A
U	S	O	O	A	A	T	X	E	N	M	N	E	R	R
C	S	R	H	I	N	U	B	F	P	E	M	R	E	D
T	E	T	S	T	T	I	T	U	M	I	O	E	T	E
I	T	C	I	E	C	A	T	H	T	W	V	P	T	L
O	U	E	L	G	E	E	C	S	O	T	E	L	E	I
N	C	L	B	R	R	A	J	I	E	R	O	Y	L	V
E	E	E	U	A	T	I	E	B	L	D	I	N	A	E
V	X	C	P	T	S	A	F	N	U	P	E	Z	T	R
A	E	R	A	W	T	F	O	S	O	S	P	E	E	R
S	R	E	V	R	E	S	S	E	R	D	D	A	N	M

© 2009 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 11/12

Address, Application, Arrow, Attachment, Authorize, Automatic, Button, Computer, Contact, Deliver, Destination, Done, Electronic, Enter, Execute, Fast, Finished, Forward, Instruction, Late, Letter, Move, Need, Next, Outbox, Over, Point, Process, Publish, Push, Reply, Respond, Save, Secure, Select, Server, Software, Stop, Subject, Target, Time

Yesterday's Answer: Swallow

We listened to your requests! **TREASURY #6** is the first-ever Wonderword book containing only 20 x 20 puzzles, with 75 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 s&h ($14.20 total) each, U.S. funds only, for the first volume. $1.50 s&h for each additional volume, to: Wonderword, Universal Uclick, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-642-6480. Order online at puzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE 8

Brand new, professional size pool/ billiard table for sale, including setting-up. $1,750. Call 287-7676.

WHATZIT Solution: White tie and tails

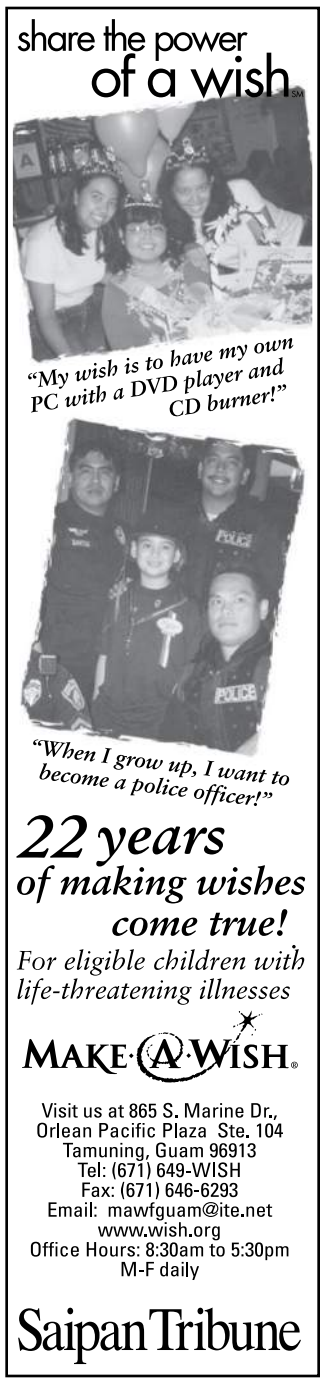
FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

TJM Lawn Care Services
WE OFFER
$30.00 per house 500 sqm
(negotiable)
Contact: Tahira S. Miah
Tel: 288-8897 • Cel: 287-8896

WANTED
Male Caregiver
Work days: Monday - Friday
Work hrs: 8:00am - 5:00pm
For inquiries please call
234-8829 Cell # 483-2325


share the power of a wish
"My wish is to have my own PC with a DVD player and CD burner!"
"When I grow up, I want to become a police officer!"
22 years of making wishes come true!
For eligible children with life-threatening illnesses
MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr., Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH
Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net
www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for Used Car, Good running condition. We pay CASH! Please call 287-7676.

JOB OPPORTUNITY $$$

"Get Paid To Go Shopping? Mystery shoppers do" – apply online at www.internationalservicecheck.com

NOTICE OF INTENT TO VOLUNTARY DISSOLVE A CORPORATION

Notice is hereby given that a Notice of Intent to dissolve Neo Fashion Inc., a corporation which is registered in Saipan, has been delivered to the Registrar of Corporations.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

TAIL TALE

© 2009 WHATZIT? is a trademark of Paul Sellers Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Find today's solution in this section

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF HAWAII, Plaintiff, vs. JOAQUIN S. REYES and MAGDALENA B. SALAS, Defendants.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0014 NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 1, 2009, I will sell, at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property:

Lot 011 G 692, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011G14, the original of which was recorded 03 DEC 93 as Document No. 93-4182 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on November 30, 2009, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., at Carlsmith Ball LLP, Carlsmith Building, Capitol Hill, Isa Drive, P.O. Box 5241, Saipan, MP 96950-5241. The sale will be opened to general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED: Saipan, MP, November 3, 2009.

/s/ Vincent J. Seman
VINCENT J. SEMAN, F0361
Attorneys for Plaintiff
BANK OF HAWAII

Vacancy Announcement
Board of Directors
Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities

The Board of Directors for the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities (Council) wishes to announce a board vacancy for the island of Saipan

The Council is a non-profit private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council's mission is to "foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth."

The Council's board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Raising funds and recruiting community partners;
- Providing input from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the NMI Council for the Humanities.

Interested individuals are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to **Charles P. Reyes Jr., Chair, Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950** or may be delivered to the NMI Council for the Humanities office, located at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan. All letters of interest and resumes must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 13, 2009. For additional information, please contact the Council's Acting Executive Director at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at http://nmihumanities.org.

DRUNK DRIVING Over the limit. Under arrest.

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

NBA great Abdul-Jabbar has rare form of leukemia

NEW YORK (AP)—Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is being treated for a rare form of leukemia, and the basketball great said his prognosis is encouraging. The NBA's all-time leading scorer was diagnosed last December with chronic myeloid leukemia, he told The Associated Press on Monday.

The 62-year-old Abdul-Jabbar said his doctor didn't give any guarantees, but informed him: "You have a very good chance to live your life out and not have to make any drastic changes to your lifestyle."

Abdul-Jabbar is taking an oral medication for the disease. He is a paid spokesman for the Swiss pharmaceutical company Novartis, which makes a drug that treats the illness.

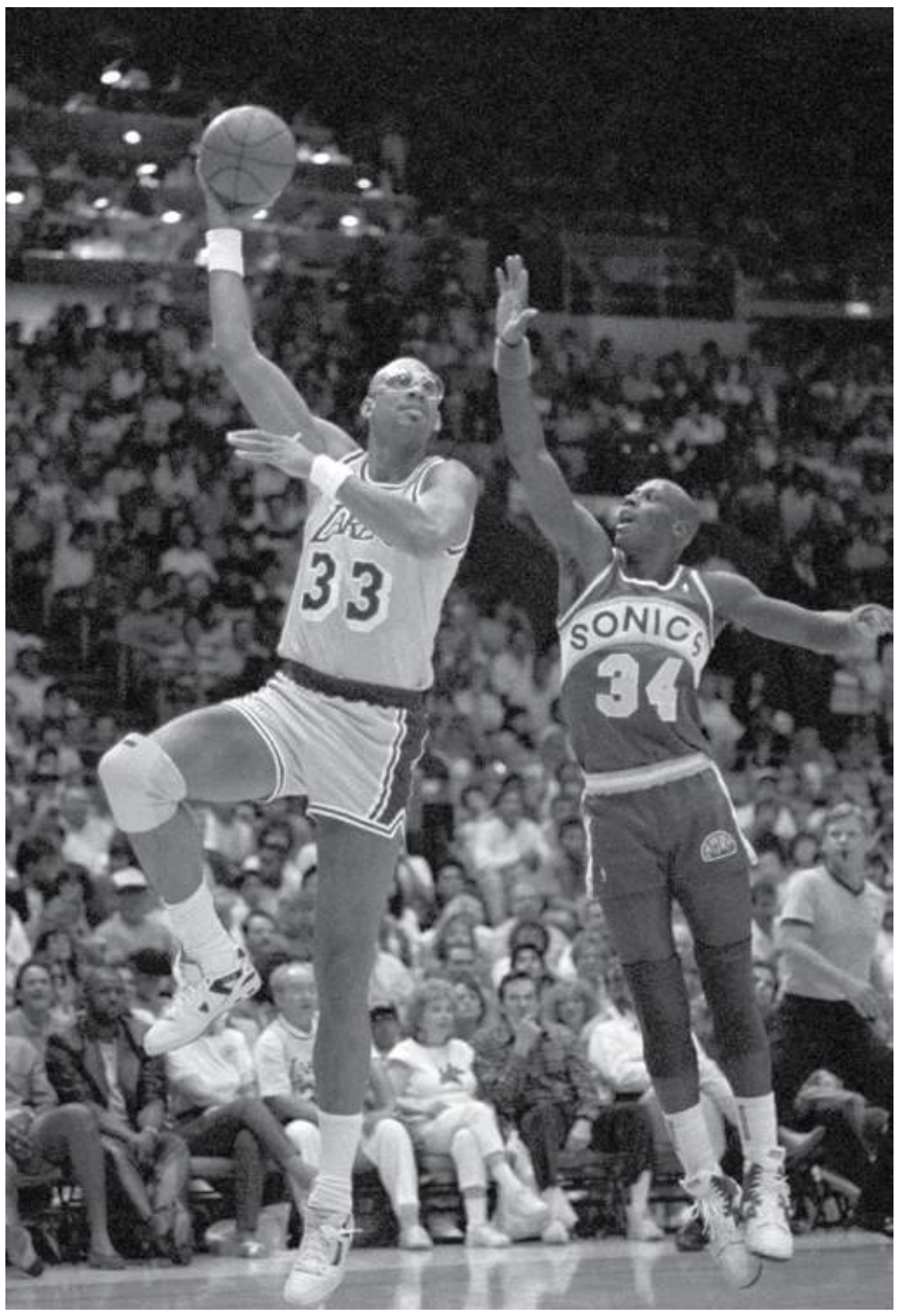
Citing the way Los Angeles Lakers teammate Magic Johnson brought awareness to HIV, Abdul-Jabbar said he wants to do the same for his form of blood cancer, which can be fatal if left untreated.

"I've never been a person to share my private life. But I can help save lives," he said at a midtown Manhattan conference room. "It's incumbent on someone like me to talk about this."

Abdul-Jabbar became concerned last year after feeling odd sensations. He went for tests at UCLA, where he dominated college basketball in the late 1960s, winning three straight NCAA championships from 1967-69.

"I was getting hot flashes and sweats on a regular basis," he said. "That's not normal, even for my age."

An exam showed his white blood cell count was "sky high" and a doctor quickly diagnosed his condition. At first, all Abdul-Jabbar heard was the word "leukemia."



AP

In this April 24, 1989, file photo, Los Angeles Lakers' Kareem Abdul-Jabbar goes up on a sky hook against Seattle Sonics' Xavier McDaniel during an NBA game in Inglewood, Calif.

"I was scared," he said. "I thought it was all the same. I thought it could mean I have a month to live."

"That was my first question," he said. "Was I going to make it?"

A longtime student in martial arts, Abdul-Jabbar said he took the approach of a samurai, to face death without fear.

"I had my face on," he said.

Instead, doctors told him CML was treatable with proper medication and monitoring.

Abdul-Jabbar is a special assistant with the Lakers and said he hasn't had to cut back his level of activity of coaching, change his regimen or adjust his diet. "I'm able to sneak out for Thai food," he said.

"There is hope. This condition can be treated. You can still live a productive, full life," he said. "I'm living proof I can make it."

Abdul-Jabbar recently returned from an academic conference in Abu Dhabi and has several speaking engagements planned. Among the people he regularly talks to about his condition is his son, a third-year medical student at the University of California, San Francisco.

The six-time NBA MVP intends to post updates to his Facebook and Twitter accounts and stay connected through http://www.CMLearth.com , a Web site for those afflicted by the disease.

About 5,000 cases of CML are expected to be diagnosed in the United States this year, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society said. More than 22,000 people are living in the US with the disease.

The disease tends to initially be diagnosed by people in their mid-to-late 60s, and usually affects men more than women.

"I want to spread the word," Abdul-Jabbar said.

Billups' free throw lifts Nuggets over Bulls 90-89

CHICAGO (AP)—Chauncey Billups hit the go-ahead free throw with six-tenths of a second left and the Denver Nuggets beat the Chicago Bulls 90-89 on Tuesday night after a potential winning jumper by Brad Miller was overturned following a replay review.

Billups was fouled by Kirk Hinrich on a drive and then intentionally missed the second free throw after making the first to break the tie. Joakim Noah grabbed the rebound, and the Bulls nearly pulled it off.

After a timeout, Miller caught the inbounds pass from Hinrich and, in one motion, buried a jumper from the top of the key. The crowd went wild. So did the Bulls, but it didn't last.

After a lengthy review, the officials ruled time had expired, and the Nuggets snapped a two-game losing streak.

The win was the 939th for coach George Karl, who passed Red Auberbach and is eighth on the NBA's all-time list.

Carmelo Anthony scored a season-low 20 points for Denver, while Billups added 17, and Kenyon Martin had 15 points and 10 rebounds after missing a game with a bruised left fibula.

Derrick Rose led Chicago with 22 points, while Luol Deng scored 21, and Joakim Noah had a career-high 21 rebounds for the Bulls, who had won three straight.

Both teams struggled from the outside, with the Bulls hitting 4 of 18 3-pointers and the Nuggets 5 of 16.

There was never really a big run in the game.

It was at 87-83 after Anthony tracked down a loose ball following a broken play by the Bulls and Martin dunked with 1:56 left.

Hinrich buried a jumper to make it a two-point game and then picked up a loose ball after a missed 3 by John Salmons, keeping the possession alive. After Noah missed a layup, Rose converted to tie it at 87 with 33 seconds left, and he answered Anthony's jumper with two free throws with 10.4 seconds left, setting up the wild finish.

Heat 90, Wizards 76

At Miami, Dwyane Wade scored 41 points as Miami remained in first place in the Southeast Division.

It's the second time Wade scored at least 40 this season, both against Washington.

Michael Beasley scored 15 points and Mario Chalmers added 13, including a 3-pointer that put Miami up by eight with 1:47 remaining. The Heat are 6-1 for the first time in a decade, matching the best seven-game start in franchise history.

Gilbert Arenas finished with 21 points, eight assists and 12 turnovers for the Wizards. Caron Butler scored 19 points for Washington, which got double-doubles from Brendan Haywood (13 points, 11 rebounds) and Andray Blatche (13 points, 10 rebounds).

Trail Blazers 93, Grizzlies 79

At Memphis, Tennessee, Brandon Roy scored 20 points, and LaMarcus Aldridge added 16 points and 12 rebounds as Portland won its third straight.

Steve Blake and Greg Oden had 14 points each for Portland, all of Oden's coming in the second half.

Marc Gasol led Memphis with 20 points, while O.J. Mayo scored 17.

The Grizzlies were without guard Allen Iverson, who left the team last weekend, with owner Michael Heisley's blessing, after playing three games on the West Coast.

Memphis center Hasheem Thabeet, the No. 2 overall pick in last year's draft, fractured his jaw late in the first quarter when he collided with teammate Zach Randolph's head.

Magic 93, Bobcats 81

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Dwight Howard had 15 points and 10 rebounds and Vince Carter scored 15 points for Orlando in his return from a sprained ankle.

Two nights after losing by 28 points in Oklahoma City, the Magic built a big lead with the help of Carter, who had missed four of the past five games. Brandon Bass scored 12 of his 14 points in the first quarter for Orlando.

Raymond Felton had 18 points and Boris Diaw added 14 for Charlotte.

Mavericks 121, Rockets 103

At Dallas, Jason Terry scored 24 points, and Erick Dampier had 14 points and 20 rebounds for Dallas, which overcame an early 17-point deficit to beat Houston.

Dampier recorded the eighth 20-rebound game of his career, Terry was 7 for 8 from the field, and Dirk Nowitzki added 23 points for Dallas, which scored at least 120 for the second straight game.

Houston's Aaron Brooks had 22 points, Carl Landry scored 19 and David Anderson added 13.

Kings 101, Thunder 98

At Sacramento, California, Jason Thompson had 21 points and 14 rebounds to help Sacramento to its first three-game winning streak in over a year.

The Kings reached the .500 mark for the first time since Dec. 4, 2006.

Tyreke Evans had 20 points, eight rebounds and eight assists for the Kings, who made 31 of 36 free throws. Andres Nocioni scored 16 points, while both Beno Udrih and Spencer Hawes had 12.

Kevin Durant scored a season-high 37 points, including making all 18 free throws, for the Thunder. Durant had a chance to send the game to OT, but missed a 3-pointer with a second left.

NBA BRIEFS

Shaquille O'Neal, wife splitting up

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Shaquille O'Neal's wife is splitting up with the Cleveland Cavaliers center. Va'Shaundya O'Neal filed for legal separation with intent to divorce Monday in Los Angeles. She cited irreconcilable differences. She is seeking spousal and child support and full legal custody of the couple's four children. No monetary amounts were listed in the court filing. "Obviously, this is a difficult time for our family, and we request that the media respect our privacy," Shaquille O'Neal said in a statement released by the team Tuesday night. "I will continue to focus on being there for our children and I am confident that Shaunie will do the same." The O'Neals were married six years, 11 months. Shaquille O'Neal is a 15-time All-Star center with four NBA titles with the Los Angeles Lakers and Miami Heat. He was traded from the Phoenix Suns to the Cavaliers in June.

Magic's Howard fined by NBA for comments on blog

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard has been fined $15,000 by the NBA for publicly criticizing officials on his blog. The league made the announcement Tuesday. The comments were posted on Howard's blog after the Magic's loss to Detroit last week. Howard fouled out in the game after playing a little more than 16 minutes. He wrote on his blog: "How can that be, ya'll? It was crazy. They called me for a charge on a flop, a push off when the defender was on me and two fouls on blocked shots." Howard also wrote that he hadn't played "that little in a game since I was 10 years old in pee-wee ball." He said, "What really bothers me is they are letting guys hammer me at one end of the floor, yet I'm being called for everything."

Gordon to miss at least 10 days

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles Clippers guard Eric Gordon will be out for at least 10 days with a sore left groin muscle. Gordon is Los Angeles' second-leading scorer this season with 18.9 points per game. He was hurt in the fourth quarter of Saturday's victory over the Memphis Grizzlies, and he missed Monday's loss to New Orleans. Rasual Butler took Gordon's place in the starting lineup against the Hornets, scoring 14 points. Gordon had played more than 38 minutes per game this season for the Clippers. Los Angeles hosts Oklahoma City on Wednesday night.

Jeter, Teixeira win Gold Gloves; Mauer honored

NEW YORK (AP) — Derek Jeter sure is stuffing his trophy case this year. The steady Yankees shortstop won his fourth Gold Glove on Tuesday, joining New York first baseman Mark Teixeira among the American League players rewarded for fantastic fielding.

"I've always taken a great deal of pride in my defense, and being honored with a Gold Glove is an accomplishment I will never overlook," Jeter said in a statement.

Los Angeles Angels center fielder Torii Hunter and Seattle right fielder Ichiro Suzuki both won for the ninth straight season. First-time winners included Tampa Bay third baseman Evan Longoria, Baltimore outfielder Adam Jones and Chicago White Sox pitcher Mark Buehrle.

Minnesota catcher Joe Mauer and Detroit second baseman Placido Polanco each earned their second award.

Rawlings has presented Gold Gloves annually since 1957. Managers and coaches vote on players in their own leagues before the regular season ends, but they may not select members of their own teams.

National League winners will be announced Wednesday.

It's been a banner year for Jeter, who combined with Teixeira to help lead the Yankees past Philadelphia last week for the franchise's 27th World Series title.

In addition to his fifth championship ring, Jeter also took home baseball's Roberto Clemente Award for excellence on the field and in the community, and his second Hank Aaron Award as the AL's top hitter. In September, he broke Lou Gehrig's club record for hits.

The Gold Glove is perhaps his most surprising piece of hardware, however. Jeter, who turned 35 in June, enjoyed one of his best defensive seasons after years of criticism for a lack of range.

A 10-time All-Star, Jeter won three consecutive Gold Gloves from 2004-06. But detractors pointed to modern fielding stats that indicated his defense didn't warrant such accolades. They said it was his bat that brought on the attention—and the New York spotlight.

This season, Jeter made a career-low eight errors and matched his personal best with a .986 fielding percentage, both ranking at the top of the AL charts. He anchored an outstanding Yankees infield as New York set a major league record by going 18 games without an error from May 14 to June 1.

"Playing championship-caliber baseball starts with pitching and defense, and I think those two components were certainly the foundation for our success in 2009," said Jeter, who made 56 errors as a 19-year-old at Class-A Greensboro in 1993.

Teixeira played a big part in New York's title, too.

In his first season with the Yankees after signing a $180 million, eight-year contract, Teixeira impressed with his reliable glove as well as his powerful bat. He saved runs with diving stops, nimble stretches and tough scoops. Teammates and opponents alike pointed to his substantial effect on the club's overall defense.

A Gold Glove winner in 2005 and '06 with Texas, Teixeira committed just four errors this year and had a .997 fielding percentage.

"Solid defense is the most underrated component of winning baseball, but it is something I have always taken pride in," Teixeira said. "Winning a third Gold Glove means a lot to me, especially when good defense helped our entire team reach the ultimate goal of a world championship."

Mauer, a top contender for AL MVP, won his second consecutive Gold Glove after leading the Twins on a late charge into the playoffs.

Longoria, last year's AL Rookie of the Year, unseated Seattle's Adrian Beltre at third base. Beltre, hampered by injuries this season, won the previous two years after a six-year run by Oakland's Eric Chavez.

"It's the one award that I've wanted to win since I started pro ball," Longoria said in a statement. "I take a lot of pride in my defense, so this award is very special to me. It's humbling to have your name associated with some of the great players who have won a Gold Glove, especially the third basemen."

In addition to the voters, Longoria thanked teammate Carlos Pena, last season's Gold Glove winner at first base.

"We all know how good he is. He probably saved me at least five errors this year, so without him the award might not have been possible," Longoria said.

Buehrle pitched a perfect game against Tampa Bay on July 23. But when he allows runners, he's particularly effective at holding them on.

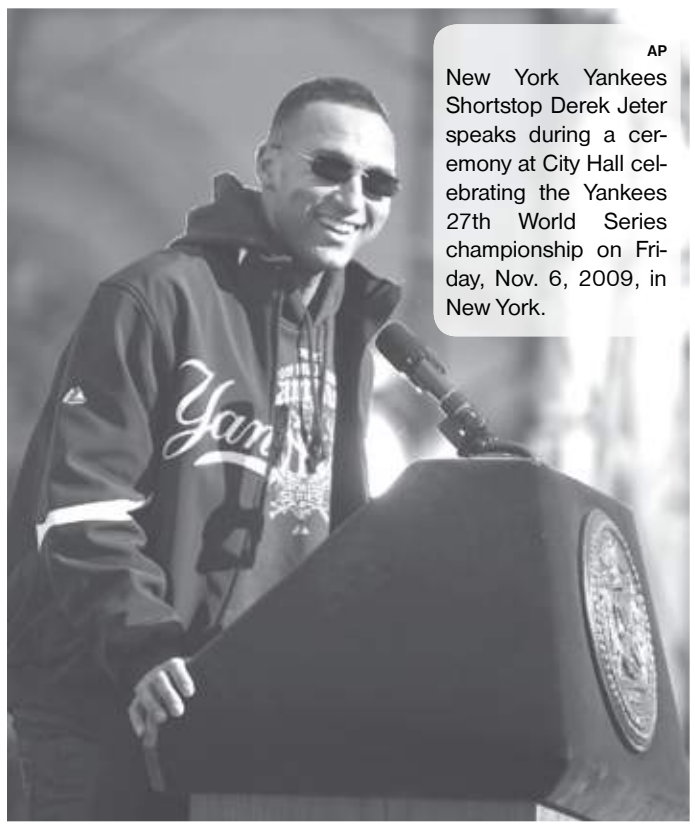
The left-hander yielded only four stolen bases in eight tries this season and picked off eight runners. The only pitcher with more pickoffs was former teammate Clayton Richard, who had nine, according to STATS LLC. Chicago traded Richard to San Diego on July 31 in a package for ace Jake Peavy.

"Hopefully, I earned it this year," Buehrle said.

Polanco, who has filed for free agency, committed two errors all season. He also won in 2007—without making an error—before losing out last year to Boston's Dustin Pedroia.

With nine Gold Gloves apiece, Hunter and Suzuki are one shy of the AL record for outfielders, shared by Ken Griffey Jr. and Hall of Famer Al Kaline.

Hunter receives a $100,000 bonus for winning the Gold Glove, while Suzuki gets $50,000. Buehrle, Longoria, Mauer and Polanco each earned $25,000.



AP

New York Yankees Shortstop Derek Jeter speaks during a ceremony at City Hall celebrating the Yankees 27th World Series championship on Friday, Nov. 6, 2009, in New York.

Baseball GMs pass on expanding instant replay

CHICAGO (AP)—Upon further review ... baseball general managers like instant replay the way it is.

GMs failed to take a vote Tuesday on expanding instant replay following a postseason filled with blown calls by umpires.

"I know there are some who have talked off line about the expansion of instant replay," said Jimmie Lee Solomon, executive vice president of baseball operations in the commissioner's office. "Right now, the commissioner doesn't see any reason to consider it."

Baseball began video review in August 2008 but only to determine whether potential home runs were fair or foul or cleared fences.

Any change for 2010 likely would be likely have to be instigated by commissioner Bud Selig, who repeatedly has said he's against widening the use of video review. While there was discussion, Solomon said "it was all confined to the current instant replay system that we have."

"I think it's working great, and for the most part the umpires are getting the calls right when replay is used," Los Angeles Angels GM Tony Reagins said. "Can we always tweak and get better? Absolutely. But I think were headed in the right direction. For the most part they're getting calls right and not afraid to use instant replay. As long as things are moving in the right direction, I don't see a need to change."

The GMs also heard a report from umpiring vice president Mike Port on training, evaluation and structure.

"I think commissioner Selig is going to look at the entire umpiring structure and he's going to seek ways to enhance the entire structure," Solomon said.

Other topics touched on during the GMs' initial 4 1/2-hour meeting were restructuring the Arizona Fall League to include younger players and modifying the amateur draft to reflect the previous year's postseason performance.

Solomon said there was no discussion on pace of the game, a topic that came to the forefront during the World Series after numerous visits to the mound by Yankees catcher Jorge Posada.

No major trades were expected at this shorter-than-usual annual meeting, which ends Wednesday. Agents also are on hand at the gathering, being held at a hotel in O'Hare International Airport. Among the top available free agents are outfielders Matt Holliday and Jason Bay, pitcher John Lackey and infielder Chone Figgins.

Reagins said the Angels are interested in re-signing both Lackey and Figgins.

"These guys have opportunities to market themselves, and they've earned that," Reagins said. "And we're hopeful that we can come to an agreement at some point. Right now it remains to be seen."

Holliday, acquired by St. Louis from Oakland in July, figures to get among the largest contracts of the offseason. The 2007 NL batting champion is represented by agent Scott Boras.

"There's no doubt there will be a significant financial commitment with regards to Holliday, and at some point if we feel we're not getting to a successful conclusion of that, then we would start to decide how we would redeploy those resources," Cardinals GM John Mozeliak said. "I haven't spoken with Scott for some time. I'm hopeful that before I leave here we will have a face-to-face."

Boras, who was at the hotel to meet with some GMs, drew a parallel between Holliday, who turns 30 in January, and another of his clients, the Yankees' Mark Teixeira. Boras negotiated a $180 million, eight-year deal for Teixeira.

"Last year we had one club that went out and made a commitment to a franchise player and they won a world championship," Boras said. "I think a Matt Holliday is another player like that in this marketplace. You have a franchise player at a young age and you have a chance to really differentiate yourself as a franchise from all others. And we'll see how many teams are really going to be involved in that."

Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein hopes to re-sign Bay, a three-time All-Star obtained from Pittsburgh at the trade deadline in July 2008.

"We'd love to have him back under the right circumstances and he's certainly open-minded to returning to Boston, it's just a process that has to play itself out," Epstein said. "He's never been a free agent before. He's got the ability and a right to see what other teams have to offer."

2009
Miller Lite
UBA
UNIFIED BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION
NTT docomo
DOCOMO PACIFIC
Venue: Garapan Basketball Court
Entrance Fee: $450.00
Category: 21 years & Over
Opening Date: Monday, December 7th, 2009
Deadline: submit 50% entrance fee and full roster by November 16th, 2009
-12 players per team with maximum of 12 teams
-Top uniforms provided for all teams and coach
-One week free trial at Gold's Gym for all participants
-One free Health Screening at Mariano Chiropractic Clinic for all participants
Champion will receive:
-Trophy
-$1000.00 CASH
-Docomo Pacific Long Distance Phone Cards
-Cases of Drinks from PTC
-Free Entrance to next seasons men's league
Finals & Regular season MVP will receive:
-Trophies
-Docomo Pacific Long Distance Cards
-Cellphones from Docomo Pacific
-After Party at Club V with Free Entrance and drinks from PTC
Special Thanks to
pepsi
Tan Siu Lin Foundation
For more info call or email: 989-UBA1 (8221) or unifiedbasketballassociation@gmail.com

All set for PILCOWA caging opening this Sunday

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It's all system go for the kick-off of the PILCOWA Basketball League this Sunday at the JP Centre Basketball Court.

League coordinator Pando Muleta said the re-painting of the basketball court is already complete and bleachers for players and spectators have been repaired.

"Everything we need for this Sunday's opening is already okay, so we are inviting the public to come and join us in the opening of the PILCOWA caging," Muleta said.

The opening rites will feature the traditional parade of teams and awarding of best in uniform and muse. One winner each in the masters and open division will be selected for the best in uniform contest, while there will be only one winner in the best in muse competition. The opening ceremony will begin at 3:30pm and will be followed by a game in the masters division. The second match will feature teams in the open division.

So far, the masters and open divisions have six teams apiece and Muleta said they are still accepting squads, but after teams played their third game, the league will shut its doors to interested teams.

The open division has defending champions Diamond Fixer, Dollar Days, IT&E, NCIC, and teams handled by Marvin Deocares and Joel Saplan on its list. Playing in the masters division are University of Loyola, Gualo Rai Boys, Ebisuya, Star Water, Cabalen, and Jerry Lopez's team.

Games in the PILCOWA caging will be played every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday with teams in the masters division playing in the first game and open division squads squaring off in the second match.

The Top 3 teams in all divisions will receive trophies during the league's awards ceremony, while top individual performers will also be given awards.

Mandatory meeting tonight

A mandatory meeting is set tonight at McDonald's Middle Road at 6:30pm.

Teams are encouraged to send two representatives at the meeting to discuss final details for the opening. Participating squads are also required to bring a copy of their rosters and proof of age eligibility (for masters). The masters division is only for players in the 37-and-above age group.

For more information on the PILCOWA caging, contact Muleta at 285-9783.

PACQUIAO

From Page 28

"I'm so scared, I'm already shaking."

All the while, he was flashing the impish smile of someone who knew better.

Tapering off

The brief incident showed best the mental state Pacquiao was in when his convoy braked outside the back entrance of The Hotel at Mandalay Bay, where the world's top boxer would be billeted for the duration of his stay in the Nevada gambling capital.

Training is expected to be less rigorous for the Pacman than when he was at the Wild Card gym in Los Angeles. Both boxers are already well into the tapering-off stage of their preparations for what is touted as the year's biggest fight.

This early, Pacquiao knows he's ready.

Freddie Roach, the American trainer who has guided Pacquiao through dizzying heights of sporting excellence, said the team would mostly walk through strategies at the IBA gym and do some mitt work.

No weight problems

Other than that, Roach said Pacquiao was in good shape physically and mentally.

"We're ready," Roach said.

Since moving up past the lightweight ranks, Pacquiao has had no troubles with the scales. In fact, the people's champ immediately wolfed down a hearty dinner after arriving at his posh The Hotel suite.

Pacquiao then slipped into the master bedroom to call it a day.

As training eases up, promotion goes a notch higher as both fighters engage in public appearances to trump up a bout that is already highly anticipated.

Weigh-in on Friday

The two protagonists will be accorded formal welcomes at separate venues on Tuesday. Pacquiao will make his arrival official at the MGM Grand at around noon and an hour later, Cotto will do the same thing.

On Wednesday, both fighters will be present at the bout's final press conference. Both will train one last time on Thursday. The following day, they will weigh in for the bout.

Pacquiao and his conditioning coach Alex Ariza have said meeting the catch weight of 145 pounds pegged for the match will be a cinch.

Team Cotto, on the other hand, has kept mum over weight issues. On Monday, strength coach Phil Landman said they would no longer address the issue of weight.

'Not against me'

Commenting on Pacquiao's goal of winning his seventh world crown, Cotto earlier told Espnstar.com: "If he thinks he is going to win seven titles in seven weight divisions now, he has picked the wrong moment, the wrong fighter and the wrong opponent … If he thinks he is going to win the seventh title against Miguel Cotto, he is very wrong."

Pacquiao has won world championships in the flyweight (WBC), super bantamweight (IBF), featherweight (linear, Ring), super featherweight (WBC), lightweight (WBC) and light welterweight (linear, Ring and IBO) divisions.

Cotto trainer Joe Santiago said Pacquiao's phenomenal achievements would not mean anything once Pacquiao stepped into the ring to face his hook-throwing ward.

"He's a fighter who started at 108 pounds and has reached 145," Santiago was quoted by Puerto Rico's El Nuevo Dia as saying in Spanish.

"But on Nov. 14, it'll be different. We have great respect for his career and hats off to him for what he's done in boxing, but on that day Miguel will be the stronger man in the ring."

Pacquiao strategy

Roach belittled the 32-year-old Cotto trainer.

"He puts a towel on his shoulder, gives his guy a drink and he thinks he's a coach," Roach said.

Santiago, who will be acting as trainer for only the second time in his career, said he wasn't giving much thought to Roach's comment.

"It isn't Freddie Roach who will face Miguel Cotto on Nov. 14 but Manny Pacquiao," he said.

Coach Ariza said Pacquiao would work more on footwork and movement during his tapering-off period as part of a strategy to keep out of Cotto's range.

He also wants to make sure Pacquiao doesn't get pushed into the ropes, where Cotto hopes to win the battle of heavy exchanges. ***(PDI)***

G-STAR

From Page 28

after a closely fought first half.

Rollers II was down by only a deuce at halftime, 24-26, as Jimmy Brel and John Maratita traded shots with G-Stars' gunners. Brel had eight points in the first half, while Maratita chipped in six and three other Rollers II players made it to the scoreboard.

Rodney Salas scored the G-Stars' first six points, but was held to two free throws in the ensuing plays, while Marvin Rabauliman had a quite seven points, allowing Rollers II to close the gap.

However, the G-Stars, specifically the trio of Rabauliman, Nate Mateo, and Clayton Kenty, found their rhythm in the second half en route to an 11-point win. Rabauliman added eight more points, while Kenty also fired eight of his nine markers in that period. Mateo, who was held to a field goal in first half, contributed eight markers, too.

Maratita continued to lead Rollers II's offense in the second half, but lacked support from his teammates, as Brel went cold in the second half, drilling only two points. Maratita was the lone Rollers II player to can more than two field goals in the second half.

In the second game, the Sonics also leaned on a second-half breakaway to rout Young 670 Rollers, 76-59.

Young 670 Rollers kept the Sonics within striking distance in the first half, as the former trailed by only four, 33-37.

Burly center Savali Talalemoto fired 17 points in the first half to keep Young 670 Rollers afloat and was still at the forefront of the team's attack in the second half. However, his one-man show was not enough to thwart the much-deeper lineup of the Sonics.

The Sonics drew 25 points from stalwart Brian Ajoste and had 11 other players contributing on offense to foil Young 670 Rollers' bid for an upset.

Only seven players scored for Young 670 Rollers and Savali was the lone player to tally double figures with his 25 points.

The loss was a big blow for Young 670 Rollers, who are trying to sweep their three remaining games to at least force a playoff for a slot to the next round. Only the Top 8 teams will advance to the playoffs and Young 670 Rollers are currently in 10th place with their 2-7 record.

The Sonics are already assured of a playoffs berth, as they have earned seven wins in nine games.

First Game

G-Stars 61 – Rabauliman 15, Salas 11, N. Mateo 10, Kenty 9, D. Mateo 8, Byun 2, Jung 2, De Vero 2.

Rollers II 50 – Maratita 12, Brel 10, Palacios 6, Danas 5, Metran 5, Kaipat 4, Lisua 4, Laniyo 2, Deleon Guerrero 2.

Scoring by halves: 26-24, 61-50.

Second Game

Sonics 76 – Ajoste 25, Palacios 12, Ecalnea 9, Cadiang 4, Salem 4, Oei 4, Salas 4, D.M. Jeon 3, Ferrer 2, Sola 2, Villanueva 2.

Young 670 Rollers 59 – Talalemoto 25, Cenir 6, Norita 5, Deleon Guerrero 5, Orejola 3, Mariano 3, Teregeyo 2.

Scoring by halves: 37-33, 76-59.

MBA

From Page 28

er at the frontline with the trio of Park, Charlie Jo, and Paul Carlo Samson alternately hitting spikes. In the end, the much experienced and much powerful MBA-A won the clincher with a 15-8 triumph in the third set.

In the first game on Tuesday, the sixth-ranked MCS stunned the third-seeded SIS-Blue with a straight set win, 26-24, 25-23. Going into its playoff game over the Knights, the Geckos held a 10-3 record in the regular season against MCS' 5-8.

The victory boosted the Knights' chances to earn a return trip to the finals and avenge their loss to five-team champion Grace Christian Academy.

Another win over MBA-A in their semis game today at 4:30pm will allow Mt. Carmel a possible rematch against the Eagles, who will face Calvary in the other semis tiff.

GCA and Calvary were the first two teams to advance to the semifinals after downing Northern Marianas Academy, 25-10, 25-14, and SIS-Green, 25-23, 16-25, 15-10, respectively.

GCA is slightly favored in their semis duel against Calvary, as the Eagles finished the regular season on top of the eight-team field with their 12-2 slate, while the Sharks owned an 8-5 mark.

The Eagles defeated the Knights in last year's finals, 25-11, 25-10, and are hoping to extend their reign in the league by nailing their sixth straight championships.

NMASA

From Page 28

tary general and vice president for sponsorship and marketing of the Fiji Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee. Maharaj visited the CNMI in July this year and explained a marketing strategy designed to make NMASA grow through a one-hour slide-show presentation. In the presentation, Maharaj added that although he understand that NMASA now has only volunteers doing the work for the group and its member-associations, it will benefit the association more if it will get a full-time employee, such as an executive director.

Identifying funding sources and programs are among the numerous responsibilities of an executive director, according to the presentation.

White declined to disclose compensation details for the executive director position, but during the initial discussion among board members, NMASA agreed to pay his or her salary for the first three months.

"In the next few months, it will be up for the executive director to find sources for funding from where his/her salary will come from," White said.

NMASA considered some of Maharaj's suggestions, including having an executive director, to make the association a self-sufficient group in the midst of global financial problems.

"We are the only Pacific Games country that gets no financial assistance either from the Olympic movement or from a parent country. The CNMI must become self-reliant if we are going to grow and progress, and Mr. Maharaj has given us some very valuable ideas about how we might be able to get where we need to go," White said in an earlier interview with S*aipan Tribune* after Maharaj's presentation.

Saipan Tribune was not authorized to discuss other details of Maharaj's marketing strategy, but it basically aims to bring together all stakeholders in the sports community and combined their resources to meet the needs of the athletes, coaches, various federations, and all other sectors concerned.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	7	1	.875	–
Philadelphia	3	4	.429	3 1/2
Toronto	3	4	.429	3 1/2
New York	1	7	.125	6
New Jersey	0	7	.000	6 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	6	1	.857	–
Orlando	6	2	.750	1/2
Atlanta	5	2	.714	1
Charlotte	3	4	.429	3
Washington	2	6	.250	4 1/2

Central Division

Milwaukee	3	2	.600	–
Chicago	4	3	.571	–
Cleveland	4	3	.571	–
Detroit	3	4	.429	1
Indiana	2	3	.400	1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	5	2	.714	–
Houston	4	3	.571	1
San Antonio	3	3	.500	1 1/2
New Orleans	3	5	.375	2 1/2
Memphis	1	7	.125	4 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	6	2	.750	–
Portland	5	3	.625	1
Oklahoma City	3	4	.429	2 1/2
Utah	3	4	.429	2 1/2
Minnesota	1	7	.125	5

Pacific Division

Phoenix	7	1	.875	–
L.A. Lakers	6	1	.857	1/2
Sacramento	4	4	.500	3
L.A. Clippers	3	5	.375	4
Golden State	2	4	.333	4

Yesterday's Games

Orlando 93, Charlotte 81
Miami 90, Washington 76
Denver 90, Chicago 89
Portland 93, Memphis 79
Dallas 121, Houston 103
Sacramento 101, Oklahoma City 98

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

ROTARY STANDINGS

G-Stars	7	0
Sixers	6	1
Sonics	7	2
670 Rollers II	5	3
Runnin' Rebels	5	4
Sparks	4	2
CK Saints	4	4
Rollers I	3	4
Ol'Aces	2	4
Young 670 Rollers 3	2	7
Celtics	1	7
Hi-5	0	8

2009 NMIFA Youth Football Fall League

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Tan Holdings FC-2 striker uses his body to keep the ball during one of the regular season games in the U13 division of the 2009 NMIFA Youth Football Fall League at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Paire Football Club's Hunter Jewell kicks the ball during their game against Tan Holdings FC-1.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Paire Football Club's Kenyon Schultz, right, battles for the ball against a Matansa striker.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Matansa Football Club female striker plays with the ball during a warm-up before their game against Paire.

Above, Matansa (in yellow uniform) and MP United-White players battle for the ball.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Above right, MP United and Matansa players in action during the co-ed U10 division of the league.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Right, Tan Holdings FC-2's taps the ball, foiling MP-United White's attempt to score.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Far right, MP United Blue's Jake Lee kicks the ball against a Tan Holdings FC-2 defender during their U13 game.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Far left, MP United-Blue's Kennedy Izuka dribbles out of a Matansa defender.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Left, a Matansa Football Club striker, left, prepares to kick the ball against two Tan Holdings FC-1 defenders.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

All set for PILCOWA caging opening this Sunday

It's all system go for the kick-off of the PILCOWA Basketball League this Sunday at the JP Centre Basketball Court.

26

Saipan Tribune
Sports

NBA great Abdul-Jabbar has rare form of leukemia

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is being treated for a rare form of leukemia, and the basketball great said his prognosis is encouraging. The NBA's all-time leading scorer was diagnosed last December with chronic myeloid leukemia.

24

MBA-A, Mt. Carmel set semis duel

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas Baptists Academy-A showed no love lost to sister team MBA-B in winning their quarterfinals duel to arrange a semis tiff against Mt. Carmel School in the 2009-2010 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Volleyball League.

MBA-A outclassed MBA-B in three sets during their playoff match on Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium to book the fourth and final ticket in the junior high school division of the annual league. Earlier, the MCS Knights notched the third semis berth via an upset win over Saipan International School-Blue.

An easy 25-9 victory in the opening set moved MBA-A a win away from clinching a Final Four spot. However, just when most of the spectators expected MBA-A to walk away with another easy win, MBA-B engaged its sister team to a neck-and-neck battle in the closing part of the second set.

MBA-A had a chance to wrap up the match when it led, 24-23, on Richard Park's ace. However, after MBA-B handled Park's second serve, MBA-A made a wide return with the ball going out of to the right sideline.

MBA-B also had an opportunity to take the set early after it scored two more points off MBA-A's errors, 26-25, but the latter came back and tied the game at 26-all. The extended second set finally ended when MBA-A made another wide return and MBA-B scored on good ball placing to the former's empty backline.

MBA-B tried to keep its momentum in the deciding third set, but MBA-A was just tough-

See MBA on Page 26

Marianas Baptist Academy's A goes for a kill during their playoff game against MBA-B in the junior varsity division of the 2009-2010 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Volleyball League on Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

NMASA looking for executive director

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association will solicit applications for executive director as suggested in a marketing strategy designed to make NMASA grow.

NMASA president, Michael White, during the association's monthly meeting last week said they will place an announcement in the newspaper this month to solicit applications for executive director.

White

"We will evaluate every application and see what they have to offer, as far as helping NMASA progress," White said.

However, White was quick to clarify that at this time NMASA board has yet to commit to hire an executive director. The board will meet again in the next few months to decide on the hiring matters.

Having an executive director is one of the suggestions under the marketing strategy formulated by Atma Maharaj, secre-

See NMASA on Page 26

G-Stars extend streak, Sonics win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

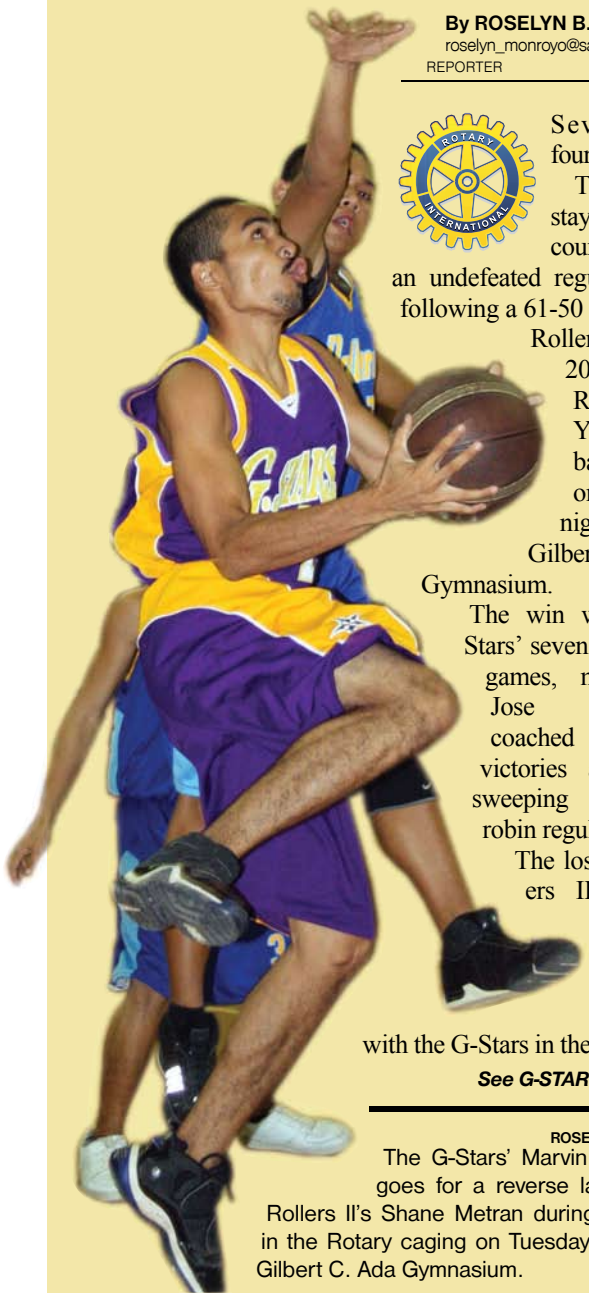
Seven down, four more to go.

The G-Stars stayed on course toward an undefeated regular season, following a 61-50 victory over Rollers II in the 2009 Saipan Rotary Club YouthBasketball League on Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The win was the G-Stars' seven in as many games, moving the Jose Tumaquip-coached team four victories away from sweeping the round-robin regular season.

The loss was Rollers II's fourth in nine games, as it failed to keep pace with the G-Stars in the second half

See G-STARS on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The G-Stars' Marvin Rabauliman goes for a reverse layup against Rollers II's Shane Metran during their game in the Rotary caging on Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Pacquiao is 3-to-1 favorite to beat Cotto

LAS VEGAS—As Team Pacquiao drove into this brightly lit vice city on Monday night, the odds continued to climb in favor of the Filipino ring icon in his historic fight against Puerto Rican champion Miguel Cotto on Nov. 14 at the MGM Grand.

Betting lines at sports houses have Manny Pacquiao a -350 favorite and Cotto a +270 underdog when they dispute the WBO welterweight crown at a catch weight of 145 pounds.

That means it would take a $350 bet on Pacquiao to win $100, while a $100 wager on Cotto would fetch $270.

Pacquiao, the reigning pound-for-pound king hoping to become the first boxer to win world titles in seven weight categories, is also heavily favored to knock out Cotto. To win $100 on such a proposition, one would have to place a $200 bet.

Now used to adulation and acclamation, Pacquiao isn't putting any of that into his head.

"I don't want to think that I'm a favorite," he said.

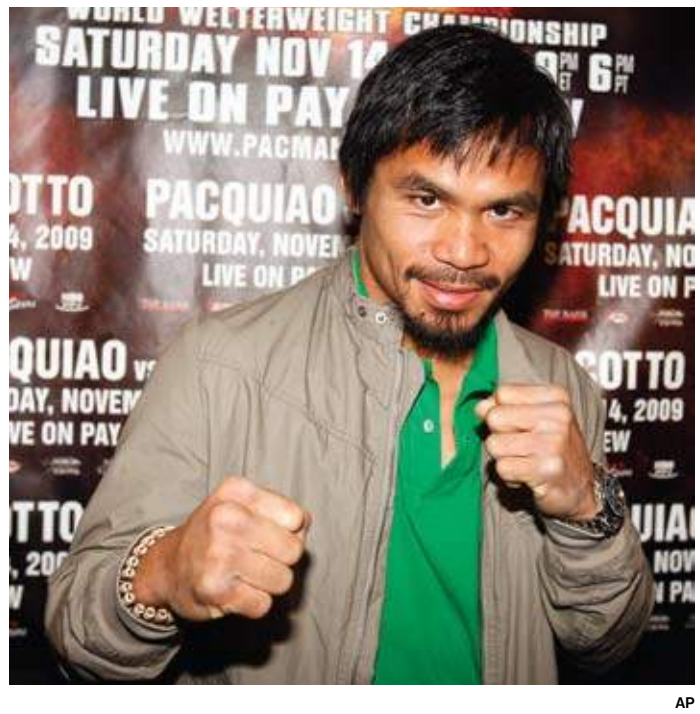
Earlier on Monday, halfway through a 480-kilometer road trip from Los Angeles, the Pacquiao convoy pulled over at Barstow for a pit stop.

Pacquiao got off the SUV he routinely rides during trips to big fights and spoke to a handful of journalists who were joking about the biting cold of the young California evening.

Asked about his upcoming fight, Pacquiao had a joke of his own.

"Miguel Cotto's big and strong," he said in Filipino.

See PACQUIAO on Page 26



AP
Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, arrives at the MGM Grand Hotel & Casino Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2009 in Las Vegas.